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WEEKLY NOTES.

THE New Year sees the beginning of many things, of which the meeting of the State Legislatures is not the least important. The national importance of these bodies is not due to their discharging any duty which would properly fall to them, but to the anomaly created by the Constitution, in leaving to them the selection of the upper house of the National Legislature. It is undeniable that they do this work very badly. They put forward for this office men whom no party convention dare nominate for the Governorship or any other State office. In fact, as matters have taken shape, our National Senate is now elected by irresponsible caucuses of politicians, whose average of principle and ability is below that of citizens at large. Were it not so, who would ever have heard of Mr. OLIVER, or of Mr. DEPEW as candidates for the United States Senate?

In Pennsylvania there seems, at this writing, more likelihood of Mr. GROW's defeat than of any other man's election. His persistent and obtrusive candidacy, and the boasts of his strength made by the newspapers in his interest, have united "the field" against him, and the chance of his securing a majority is not a strong one. He could muster, in the election of the chairman of the caucus, but fifty-one of the seventy-two members instructed to vote for him, instead of the sixty-five to seventy-five which were claimed. This, we take it, will dispose the Philadelphia delegation to carry their votes to another market; and, as it was upon them he depended, we fear Mr. GROW will never be Senator GROW. This we regret, not because we entertain very lofty ideas of Mr. GROW's capacity, but because we think him a much better man than any other of those who are actually running for the office. His record on the slavery issue, on the money question, and, above all, on the Homestead Bill, of which he was the first Congressional champion, all entitle him to a respect which is due to none of his competitors. And it is an additional claim that his election is antagonized by the CAMERONS. Mr. OLIVER of Pittsburg has no claims to the place, except his wealth. If he is a man of public spirit, and has taken any part in public life, it has not been so prominent as to attract attention at this end of the commonwealth. The Republicans jeered at the New York Democrats for casting lots for petty municipal offices, and talked of the Prætorians selling the Empire as a just parallel. But what shall we say of the second State in the Union sending a wealthy nobody to the Senate, for no reason which would not be equally valid for the election of a retired rag-picker?

In New York Mr. CONKLING is not expressing publicly any preference as regards the coming Senator, but there are indications that he means to control the nomination if he can. The hysterical protests of Mr. GEORGE C. GORHAM, in the *National Republican*, against any interference from Mr. HAYES, are enough to show that there is every reason to expect of Mr. CONKLING what Mr. HAYES is not to do. If the candidate of the opposition to Mr. CONKLING, it to be Mr. DEPEW, we shall not feel much satisfaction in the result, whatever it is. Mr. DEPEW would go to Washington as the representative and delegate of the railroad magnates, notably of Mr. VANDERBILT; and we think the chances of sound legislation on that subject poor enough, without Mr. DEPEW acting as the advocate

and retainer of the great corporation in the United States Senate. The condition of Pennsylvania politics is bad enough, but not so bad that we are owned in shares by the bosses and the railroads.

When the Constitution is subjected to a thorough revision, it would be well to require the State Legislatures to send down to the people three candidates for the Senatorship, instead of making the election themselves. Under that arrangement there would be small chance for Messrs. OLIVER and DEPEW.

In Michigan the Senatorship has been decided by the caucus election of Mr. OMAR D. CONGER, one of the Congressmen from that State, by a close vote over ex-Governor JOHN J. BAGLEY. We are not altogether of the opinion that the Senate will be very much strengthened by Mr. CONGER's election to the higher branch of Congress. His ability, as an annoyance to the Democratic majority, has been abundantly proved during the last two years, and his work for the Republican party has not at all times been valueless, while his stinging replies have frequently been provocative of anger that in no way aided the best settlement of public questions. In the more deliberative and less fiery body to which Mr. CONGER has been chosen, he will, we suppose, be useful. Possibly he may serve to rouse Mr. VOORHEES or Mr. HILL to more animated speeches and more peppery rhetoric.

We are glad to see that the corrupt bargain which was mooted between the Tennessee Republicans and the Repudiating Democrats, has fallen to the ground, and that the former have put forward Mr. MAYNARD as their candidate for the Senatorship. This frees the Republicans from any complicity with the Repudiating party, and makes sure that the Governorship is not to be traded to that party in exchange for the Senatorship. As the Legislature of Tennessee is so closely divided that two votes either way would change the result, the Senator who will be elected is not easily predicted. The Republicans, however, can better afford to lose this chance, than lose their record as a party of unqualified honesty. We are aware that some Republicans; in the Legislature sympathize with the Repudiationists, but there is no such stigma attached to the Governor, who was to be traded out of his post as guardian of the State's honesty, into the United States Senate.

THE Maine Republicans are exposed to a temptation which it is to be hoped they will be able to resist. In the election of September last, General PLAISTED, the Fusion candidate for Governor, was successful by a plurality of a few hundred votes over Mr. DAVIS, the Republican candidate. It was discovered, however, when the returns were received at the capital, that many of the ballots cast for General PLAISTED were defective in some minor particular. Thus the candidate's name appeared sometimes as Henry, instead of Hiram, and the initial of his middle name was variously and incorrectly given. By the rejection of these imperfect ballots and the strict observance of other technicalities, it would be possible to overcome Mr. PLAISTED's plurality, and make Mr. DAVIS the Governor. Another way of accomplishing the same purpose has reference to the constitutional amendment adopted at the September election, making a plurality elect. As is well known, in view of frequent strife over the matter, if no candidate for Governor received a majority of the whole number of votes, cast the election was thrown into the Legislature, under conditions which made

the success of a minority candidate not only possible, but probable. The amendment wisely provided against any such result, and the statute under which it was submitted to the people stipulated that it should be operative in the action of adoption, the vote thereon being simultaneous with the choice of the Governor. Because it is a Democrat, Greenbacker, or whatever he may be called, who received the plurality, it is now proposed to question the constitutionality of the provision that the amendment should go into effect at once. These devices are unworthy of a great party, and we cannot believe that the Maine Republicans will give them sanction. For similar attempts to pervert the popular will, Mr. GARCELON and his party only a year ago received the condemnation of the whole country. It would be a disgrace ineffaceable for the Maine Republicans to pick up and wear the defiled and cast-off garments of the Fusionists. It is bad, of course, to have Mr. PLAISTED for Governor, —although General HANCOCK considered his election a matter for national rejoicing—but it would be unspeakably worse to rob him of his success, and to make successful "Garcelonism" a part of the common law of politics in Maine.

THE old Tontine building in New York was erected in 1794, by the joint contribution of a large number of business men, each of whom risked his share upon the life of a person then living, with the understanding that with the expiration of that life the share would be forfeited, and that when seven only were left it should be sold for the benefit of the owners of the shares they represented. The concerns of the company are now being wound up. Of over two hundred persons thus designated, seven were not left alive until 1870, or seventy-four years after the formation of the company,—a result which would have surprised the founders. Something must be allowed for the alteration of novelty in this plan, which was devised last century by an Italian named Tonti. But it is safe to say that no two hundred business men of the same standing, even in New York, would now risk their money in an arrangement into which the element of gambling entered so distinctly. For the risk was an artificial one, not depending upon a rise or fall in price, or any other legitimately commercial consideration. The truth is that our forefathers had what we would think very loose notions on this head. They did not perceive the moral injury done to society at large by companies such as this, and by lotteries. The best of them took part in these hardly legitimate schemes for extracting money from the public, by appeal to people's belief in their own luck. It sounds strange to read of GEORGE WASHINGTON's name being found subscribed on a lottery ticket, as the treasurer of the company, even though the object was a road through the Alleghanies, or to hear that BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was one of the promoters of a similar scheme to raise money to build a spire on Christ Church. Our surprise marks an advance in public morals, as does the recommendation of the Post Office authorities, that the use of the mails be refused even to those lotteries which are not charged with fraud, and that newspapers containing advertisements of such enterprises be included.

ONE American statesman, prominent until the fourth of March next, does not seem to share the public convictions on the subject of lotteries. Mr. FERNANDO WOOD proposes that the Treasury shall issue several hundred millions of Treasury notes, redeemable by the Treasury in certain quantities each year for ten years, and the notes for redemption to be determined *by lot*. That is, Mr. WOOD proposes to turn the United States Treasury into a huge lottery agency, selling at the same price great quantities of public securities, some of which would be desirable investments, and some quite undesirable, and to distinguish the two classes by lot after the sale. It is true that the gambling features of this proposal are covered up by the fact that the repayment of principal is made in every

case; but as the value of a Treasury note for one year is distinctly different from that of a Treasury note for ten years, the arrangement would be a lottery, under the sanction and management of the National Government, and nothing else. Why not do the thing more boldly and honestly, and appeal, as several of the Italian Governments did, to people's faith in their luck as a means of raising the public revenue and extinguishing the debt?

THERE are mysterious intimations that one day this month, and that day soon, the country will be startled by the appearance of the Virginia Senator-elect, General MAHONE, in a new role. It is given out that we are to look for a manifesto from the ex-Confederate, in which the past, present and future of Virginia, and of the nation, are to be set forth in a way that will make it as plain as daylight that "General MAHONE is the leader of the true Debt-payers of that Commonwealth, and that his Bourbon-Funder opponents are a set of ridiculous gasconaders and pretenders." This news may be considered important if true. There will certainly be cause for satisfaction if General MAHONE can clear the skirts of his little party of the stain of repudiation. Except on this question of the State debt, upon which he has ridden into power, he is nearer than almost any other Southern statesman, of Democratic affiliations, in accord with the principles of the National Republican party. He is the deadly foe of the re-actionary policy which has been characteristic of the regular Democracy in his own and several other Southern States. He has shown himself the friend of the black man, and, from whatever motives, has fought his battles against race prejudice at the polls, in the legislature, and in the courts, and is an avowed apostle of the gospel of protection to American industry. He has exalted the national idea at the expense of the worn-out dogma of State sovereignty, at whose shrine so many Virginia statesmen still prostrate themselves in the idolatry of unavailing humiliation. He looks forward, and not backward, and dwells in all of his public utterances upon the future of the whole country in fulfilment of its great mission of making free government an accomplished fact. Around him are gathered many of the young men who have through his example and teaching become emancipated from subjection to false doctrines, and upon whom rests the only hope of the redemption and regeneration of the South. With such principles and under such surroundings, there is every reason why General MAHONE should cut loose entirely from Democratic leading strings. If he can make it appear that he is not a Repudiationist, and is willing to be called a Republican and take his place in the Republican ranks, there will be no hesitation about extending to him the right hand of fellowship. But the advance must be made from his side, and he must show a clean bill of health, to be an acceptable recruit.

THE increase in population in the Southern States seemed to be attributable to natural causes, and is a gratifying evidence that the national prescription for the sick and long-suffering South was a wise one. Slavery was an abnormal development of the body politic; with its removal came temporary prostration, but in the end revived and wonderfully quickened vitality for the whole system, but especially for the long diseased member. Whites and blacks have alike shared in the benefits of the changed conditions. As to the whites, the facts are well known. As to the blacks, it is gratifying to emphasize the point that as freedmen they have increased and multiplied, while they have thrived also in harvest and in store. While the Southern whites have increased 26 per cent. in the last decennial period, the negroes have increased 38 per cent. In Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, according to unofficial returns before us, the increase is far less than in North Carolina, South Carolina and Maryland; but this is a comparison of little consequence; the main point is that the negro, instead of dying out, as

the pro-slavery prophets predicted, is more than holding his own in numbers. Meanwhile he is learning independence of thought, as well as his betters, and becoming every day a more useful citizen.

GENERAL WALKER is making us happy by bringing the population of the country up to the round figures of fifty millions. This falls short of the sanguine expectations of those who based their calculations upon the decades 1840-60, but is equally beyond the moderate estimate of those who took 1860-70 as their basis of calculation. It seems now to be proven that the increase in 1860-70 was a good deal larger than was reported, and that, in several portions of the country the new count includes multitudes who were passed over not only in 1870, but also in previous counts. Especially is this true of South Carolina, where the figures reported in June last excited a not unnatural suspicion of fraud, but were fully confirmed by a twice repeated enumeration. It is not to be wondered that these suspicions were excited with regard to a State whose election returns are notoriously untrustworthy. And the Southern members of Congress helped to arouse suspicion by the pertinacity with which they insisted on the exclusion of Republicans from the lists of Southern enumerators. It is, however, a matter for public congratulation that the latest returns show that the count in South Carolina was a fair one.

WEST POINT ACADEMY is about to be put on its trial, with Cadet WHITTAKER serving as "John Doe." The order for a new trial by court-martial, although opposed by General SHERMAN, has been issued by the President with the sanction of the Secretary of War, and the majority of the new court are "mustangs." As three able lawyers, all champions of negro equality, have undertaken the defence, and as the Government is as anxious for a thorough sifting of the whole case as for the conviction of WHITTAKER, we may look for such a trial as will either inflict serious damage on certain military reputations, or will re-establish the Academy completely in public confidence. It is quite possible that the latter result will be the actual one. We, who have no love for West Point, admit very freely that nothing has been brought to light which reflects very severely upon either General SCHOFIELD or his subordinates in command. It seems true that they did not behave with much magnanimity to Cadet WHITTAKER, that they had no sympathy with him in his unhappy position of isolation, and that General SCHOFIELD, at least, jumped to the conclusion afterwards reached by the court-martial, with a promptness which showed great prejudice. All these considerations suggested his removal, and the substitution of a man of different spirit. None of them promise us any shocking disclosures, such as some of the newspapers seem to foretell. But for the sake of the country, the Academy, and Cadet WHITTAKER, we are glad of the new court-martial.

MAYOR GRACE, of New York, makes a very reasonable protest against the relation of that city to the government of the State. For many years the government has been altered and reconstructed at the pleasure of a legislature in which the city has relatively a very small representation, and of which a majority has been hostile politically to its representatives. It is true that there has not been so much ground for complaint for the last two years. The existing system of city government was devised by intelligent New Yorkers, with a view to purity and efficiency of administration, and, while far from perfect, it is one of the best in America,—far better, indeed, than that we have in Philadelphia, although not so good as the plan proposed for us by the Municipal Government Commission, and urged by Governor HOYT on the attention of the Legislature. But New York City has no security for the future. It presents a most tempting object to Albany legislators, now that there is no great canvass impending to keep them in

good behavior. And Mayor GRACE's demand for the security furnished by local self-government is a very fair one. We do not, however, see how it is to be obtained without dividing the State into two Commonwealths, and erecting Long Island, New York City and the suburban counties into an independent State. If that were done, New York City would have her destiny in her own hands. Besides, the great mass of citizens which now make up the first Commonwealth of the Union would secure a fairer representation in the national government, having four Senators instead of two. And neither half of the State would, as at present, efface the other in every presidential election. The interior would vote for the Republicans, and the city for the Democrats, with hardly the need for a canvass to bring out the vote. Even if separation is thought impossible or undesirable, the legislature should take steps to correct the last evil. It should modify its electoral law, so as to have two electors at large chosen by the whole State, and the others by the Congressional districts. Under this arrangement, New York City and the neighboring Democratic districts could have voted for General HANCOCK, and would not have been effaced by the State.

It may be suspected that we desire this change in order that Pennsylvania may take rank as the largest State in the Union. On the contrary, we are equally ready to urge that Philadelphia and the suburban counties be erected into a new State, and that a third be chiselled out of the Western counties, with Pittsburg at their head. Since the State governments exist for municipal purposes only, it is absurd to retain the present enormous populations and areas under their control. And as for relative rank, Pennsylvania will be the largest State by 1900, if we trust the indications of the last census.

THE Secretary of State is of the opinion that the revelations made by Prof. H. YOULE HIND, in regard to the falsification of the Canadian exhibit before the fisheries Arbitration Commission, calls for no action on the part of the American Government, as it might seem dishonorable to call in question the result of an arbitration to which we had submitted. We are not surprised to find Mr. EVARTS taking this position. He is anxious, we believe, for a permanent settlement of this question, by which our neighbors will be pleased as well as ourselves; and he deprecates the opening of controversies about the past. Neither does he relish disclosures which show that his friend and predecessor in the Department of State selected as the American representative on that commission, a gentleman who was too susceptible to the qualities of Halifax Champagne to prove himself a competent judge of the matters in hand. But Mr. EVARTS has stopped himself from presenting any such plea as this. After this decision of the Arbitration Commission had been pronounced, and our own Government had been called upon to pay the five and a half millions, he himself volunteered to offer diplomatic resistance to its payment, and was given discretion in the matter by Congress. Besides action could now be had which would involve no disrespect to the Commission of Arbitration. Our Government might ask very properly, whether the new evidence warranted a reopening of the case.

WHAT Mr. EVARTS may wish or is likely to do, is not of so much importance as it was a year ago. There seems good reason to believe that when he retires from office, two months hence, he will be succeeded by a gentleman who will take up this Fisheries question in a much less amiable spirit. While most of the rumors about Mr. GARFIELD's Cabinet are but random guesses, there is good reason to believe that the Secretaryship of State has been offered to Mr. BLAINE. We are aware that grave objections might be made to this appointment, but we think that no one will question Mr. BLAINE's great abilities, which make such a post suitable for him. If this selection has been, or is to be, made, it

will show our Canada neighbors that America "means business" as regards her foreign relations, and that before we pay another five and a half millions, we will have some better reason than Mr. EVARTS had. We regret any change in the attitude of our government which will imply less friendliness towards our Northern neighbors. But we must say that their whole conduct, with the honorable exception of the matter of extradition, has been such as to discourage their friends in America, and to strengthen the hands of those whose local interests have made them their enemies.

WHATEVER Mr. EVARTS may do, or whatever is done by the next Secretary of State, the settlement of our Canadian disputes can only come about in one fashion, through the intervention of a Commission. And when such Commission is constituted, we trust sincerely that it may be properly empowered. By this, we mean that it shall not be organized and endowed with powers for the fisheries question *only*. There are other issues with the people north of the St. Lawrence, which, while not so sharply defined through the efforts of previous commissions, are yet of equal and pressing importance. We refer to the question of equalization of tariffs, customs, canal systems, transport of goods in bond, and similar interests of our intricate commercial life. Such matters should all come before the next commission for adjustment, either final or partial.

The time is ripe, unquestionably, for the consideration of the question of commercial relations between Canada and the States. Public opinion in the Dominion has for some time been directed sharply to projects of a commercial union, and public sentiment will very strongly and with insistence endorse any feasible plan for obtaining relief. The United States has the opportunity to initiate the movement and to obtain the credit that would accrue to its successful conception. The fishery dispute finds us in the position of petitioners, and in reconsidering that issue will be found the opportunity of touching on the other. Canada has in a measure invited our opening of the subject, in the rider that was tacitly attached to the last tariff bill, announcing that when we would amend our tariff the Canadians would do likewise. Herein lies the opportunity of the next commission. It should be constituted with five members on the part of each country. For Canada, the Premier, the Ministers of Finance and of Marine and Fisheries, would properly be members. Power should be given to settle the Fishery issue, and to recommend such measures as are necessary to adjust all commercial differences and interests. The Commission should be directed to sit at intervals during two or three years or as long as would be necessary to settle finally all international questions.

The State trials at Dublin do not seem to be enlivened by much incident, while there is every reason to believe that they will prove unusually tedious. The counsel for the traversers insist that the government reporters shall read from their notes not only the passages from speeches upon which the government rests its case, but the whole contents, to show the true intention of those passages. This revives the issue raised in O'Connell's trial, when a similar claim was made and granted; but the presiding Judge caused great scandal by asking from the government's counsel the printed slips containing only the passages thought actionable, and by using them only in his charge. The present presiding judge seems to forget this, as he grumbles about the time of the court being taken up with the reading of the context, and pronounces this evidence of no weight for the defence. Whether he heeds this evidence or not, he cannot prevent it being heard.

The conviction is very general that the trials will result in an acquittal. The jury have been helped to that verdict already by the break-down of important portions of the evidence for the pros-

ecution. It turns out that several of the government reporters were not competent for such work, and that they were not sure of their own accuracy. They were amateur phonographers, but our own experience with professionals convinces us that phonography is too mechanical and imperfect an instrument for any man's life, liberty and good name to be risked upon its accuracy.

THE fear of a popular uprising in Ireland still dominates the government's counsels. Vague rumors of systematic drilling in the most excited districts still fill the public ear. No doubt there is truth in these. In the present state of excitement there is a disposition to fall back into the method of popular organization which preceded the Fenian uprising. But there will not be any general insurrection, because neither the leaders of the Land League nor those of the Nationalist party desire any such movement. The flying columns of troops which are to scour the Western counties will find no opposition to their movements. Popular opposition will yield before them and close behind them like water. There may be a bit of a riot here and there, but the Irish people are not going to fight. They have succeeded too well without fighting to have any resource to such risky proceedings.

The Imperial Parliament met Thursday, ignoring popular superstition about Friday beginnings. The Queen's speech entertained just such a legislative programme as might have been expected. It proposed material modifications of the Irish Land Laws, but no effective plan for the creation of a peasant proprietorship, thus ensuring the continuance of the Land League and its agitations. On the other hand, Mr. GLADSTONE and his friends propose to reenact in a modified form the statutes which provide extraordinary measures for the preservation of the public peace in Ireland, and thus challenge not only the Land League, but the united body of Home Rulers to a struggle in the House of Commons. For nothing is more remarkable in the present struggle than the consolidation of the moderate Irish members for the support of extreme measures. Mr. GRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN and Mr. MCCARTHY are as much in earnest now as Mr. BIGGAR or Mr. PARNELL.

THE uprising of the Boers against British rule in the Transvaal Republic makes rapid headway. The Boers of the Orange Free Republic, who emigrated from Cape Colony to escape British rule, seem to have cast in their lot with their brethren of the Transvaal; and the latter are showing a vigor and a courage in their military operations, which promises them speedy possession of the whole territory. It is very evident that the British forces are far outnumbered, and will be cut off before reinforcements can reach them, as the only direct route from the Cape to the Transvaal lies through the Free Republic, and is not open to the English.

The Pall Mall Gazette and some other Liberal newspapers urge a policy of justice towards the Transvaal. We fear that this proposal will receive no attention, not until all opposition has been put down by force, and hardly then, will British honor permit of any action but that of attack upon the liberty of a free people, upon whom they have no other claim than Ahab had upon Naboth's Vineyard.

THE Greek question remains in much the same status, with some indications that Turkey has no relish for a war with even this small Kingdom, and that the Greek Government would like to submit the matter to arbitration if it dare and were sure that Europe would insure to it all that the arbitration would agree to give it. If it cannot get such terms as will satisfy an excited people, the war may begin at once. As Athens is nearer than Constantinople to the disputed territory, the disadvantage of a Winter campaign might be less severe on the Hellenes than on their enemies.

GERMANY seems likely to have on her hands a popular agitation, which, started by Chaplain STOECKER and his Christian Socialist clubs, has been taken up by classes who are not likely to be controlled by his notions of the limits of agitation. Crowds of citizens have mobbed Jewish restaurants and similar places. The students of the universities are enrolling themselves as the opponents of Jewish, and, presumably, the champions of Christian, influence in the Fatherland. "Set Jehu to pulling down idols," says an old Puritan, "and see how zealous he can be." Some people never discover much zeal for religion until they are asked to quarrel in its behalf. Whatever Chaplain STOECKER may have had to find fault with in his Jewish fellow-citizens, he has taken the wrong way to correct it. He has started an impure fire of hatred and ill-will, which, like all other wrath, "worketh no righteousness."

THE question of the propriety of introducing compulsory education comes up in Pennsylvania through the bill drafted by Mr. WICKERSHAM and laid before the State Legislature. We trust that it will not pass. It is one of those vigorous and oppressive measures which have great attractions for a certain class of reformers, but which are sure to fall through for want of popular support in the execution, and to injure the general cause with which they are associated. It is possible to enforce such a law in some communities. It is possible under the bureaucracy of Germany. It is equally possible in New England, with its Puritan traditions, its town-meeting methods of government, its comparatively homogenous population, and its almost superstitious regard for "culture." But it is not possible in Pennsylvania, with its free and easy methods of administration, its mixture of the most diverse elements, and its popular resentment of needless governmental interference. Imagine Mayor STOKLEY's police, which has not the energy to shut the taverns on Sundays and on election days, undertaking the work of forcing the children off the streets into the schools!

Let us not be understood as acquiescing in the present condition of school attendance in Philadelphia. We regard it as deplorable, and reform as absolutely necessary. But compulsion would be beginning at the wrong end, and is not to be sought until other means have been exhausted. That any recourse has been had to other means we have not heard, except the influence exercised by the Philadelphia Ward Relief Associations upon their beneficiaries. Now, the theory of government upon which all advocates of public education proceed, is that it is the duty of government to enlighten the minds and give right direction to the wills of the people, instead of merely constraining them to obey a law whose merits they do not appreciate. Then why abandon their own theory by proposing to force their parents into compliance with an educational law, of whose merits no one has taken any pains to inform them? That style of government in Europe has made all government odious to the great masses of the people, and has taught them to regard the magistrate and the policeman as everyone's enemy. This new law will only associate in that odium the teacher along with the magistrate and the policeman. And while it robs the teacher of public respect, it will also deprive him of the most efficient aid in his arduous work, by filling his class-room with boys and girls who know that they cannot be expelled, and that their parents will give the teacher no moral support in the enforcement of discipline.

OUR record of events at home and abroad closes with the week ending January 6:—

A letter carrier of Jersey City has been dismissed the service, for refusing to vote at any election.

Truth has announced the MOREY-letter published in its columns just previous to the Presidential election, to have been a forgery.

Mr WILLIAM B. WOODS, the newly appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, qualified on the 5th, and took his seat on the Supreme Bench.

The Chamber of Commerce of Duluth has passed resolutions asking Congress to construct a canal between Lake Superior and the Red River of the North.

The International Sanitary Congress met at Washington on the 5th and elected Mr. JOHN HAY, Assistant Secretary of State, Chairman, with Dr. THOMAS J. TURNER, Secretary. The session will begin on Wednesday next.

The Irish Land League of Pittsburg have begun "Boycotting" in Pittsburg. The process is to be applied to tradesmen who do not favor the Land League, and (for the present,) is announced to apply only to business transactions.

The immigrants landed at Castle Garden, New York, during 1880 numbered 320,808, the largest numbers on record for a single year, and generally of a better character than in previous years. Of these, 29,016 males and 10,582 females, were provided with employment by the Labor Bureau of the New York Commissioners of Emigration. Since 1847 the arrivals of immigrants at Castle Garden reached a total of 6,177,833.

Chicago is about to make a new effort to afford better police protection to her citizens. The district telegraph plan is to be adopted by the police, and houses will contain a telegraphic indicator enabling the tenant to call for police assistance under the following classifications: Murder, fire, larceny, riot, burglary, help, accident, disturbance, theft and thieves. The police sent to the house indicated by the alarm will be conveyed in special wagons.

The Secretary of the Treasury announced on the 1st, changes in values of the following coins from those given by the circular of 1880 as the standard for acceptance by the Department: Florin, Austria, 41.3 to 40.7 cents; coliviano, Bolivia, 83.6 to 82.3 cents; milreis, Brazil, 54.0 to 54.5 cents; peso, Ecuador, 83.5 to 82.1 cents; rupee, India, 39.7 to 39 cents; yen, Japan, 99.7 to 88.8 silver, not gold; dollar, Mexico, 90.9 to 89.4 cents; sol, Peru, 83.6 to 82.3 cents; rouble, Russia, 66.9 to 65.8 cents; mahlen, Tripoli, 74.8 to 74.3 cents; peso, Cuba, is given at 93.2 cents; bolivar, Venezuela, is given at 19.3 cents. Egypt formerly quoted the pound at \$4.97.4, is given the piaster as a standard at .049 cents. These figures are based on the estimates of the Director of the Mint.

Dr. SCHLIEMANN, has presented his Trojan relics to the Emperor of Germany, to be placed in the Museum at Berlin.

THE Opposition in the Spanish Cortes has demanded, with some hot words, that the government produce all documents relating to the proposed treaty of commerce between Spain and the United States.

The first detachment of engineers and workmen who are to actively begin operations on the Panama canal, sailed for Panama from Havre on the 5th.

"The Cup," a tragedy by the poet laureate of England, was successfully produced at the Lyceum Theatre in London on the 3d. Mr. HENRY IRVING and Miss ELLEN TERRY supported the principal parts.

Dispatches from Montevideo foreshadow trouble at an early date between Uruguay and the Argentine Republic, in consequence of the impressment of troops into the Uruguayan army by the latter power. From the other side of the same continent it is telegraphed the Bolivian Parliament has ordered the question of union with Peru to be submitted to the Department Assemblies.

The Saratoff Assembly is reported in St. Petersburg to have announced that 750,000 people are starving in that province. It is also stated that 1,000,000 persons are in absolute want in Samara (the Volga district.) Added to such unhappiness for the opening of the New Year in Russia, comes the announcement of General SCOBELLEFF's defeat by the Tekke-Turcomans at Geok Tepe. General SCOBELLEFF's loss is said to have been 3,000 men, with arms and ammunition.

The Jewish agitation in Germany grows with the winter. The announcement in Berlin that a demonstration in favor of the Jews would take place in this country has caused some hot words in the Berlin papers, and the amusingly absurd statement that "Germany will not tolerate foreign intervention in her internal affairs." It seems the idea that "Germany is the world," which so bountifully blossomed on the victories of 1870-1, is still in bloom. There is, however, enough work for Prince BISMARCK at home, without

troubling himself with the United States. He had the pleasure or dissatisfaction, of witnessing on the 3d an anti-Jewish demonstration in Berlin by 1400 Berlin students, 1022 Leipzig students and others from Göttingen, Kiel, Rostock and Halle, who have signed an anti-Jewish petition to the Chancellor and taken measures to propagate the feeling against the Jews in other centres than the capital. With this comes the news that a new order of Socialists, with ramifications all over the empire, has been discovered.

The British Parliament opened on the 6th. The QUEEN'S speech announces that the relations with foreign powers continue to be friendly and harmonious, but some important provisions of the Treaty of Berlin continue to form an object of anxious attention. The rising in the Transvaal has postponed the plans for securing the European settlers full control over their own local affairs without prejudice to native interests, and necessitated military measures for a prompt vindication of British authority. A peace with the Basutos is desired, and the occupation of Candahar is announced as not to be a permanent one. Favorable expectations of the year's revenue are entertained. The condition of Ireland is admitted to be "alarming," and proposals will be submitted for entrusting the government with additional powers necessary for the vindication of order and public law, and the securing of safety for life and property. The removal of grievances is promised in a measure for county government founded upon representative principles, and framed with the double aim of confirming the popular control over expenditures and extending the formation of habits of local self-government. Bills are to be presented for the abolition of corporeal punishment in the army and navy, and measures are to be considered relative to reform in the bankruptcy laws, and repressing election frauds.

ARE DEBTS COLLECTIBLE?

IF any one class of people, more than another, is indebted to civilization for benefits conferred, it is that which is burdened with debts and has nothing to pay them with. If the debtor of to-day feels that his lines are not cast in pleasant places, he has need only to consider what would have been his lot had he been born a few centuries ago, or were he a native of countries still outside the pale of advanced civilization. It was an ancient, and may seem now, a novel idea, that a debtor was bound to pay his debts, whether able or not able, whether willing or not willing. The creditor was allowed the widest scope in dealing with his delinquent debtors, and if the latter failed in meeting the demands upon his purse, his liberty and person were made to answer the consequences. Athens and Rome furnished the most striking illustration of the respect shown by the ancients for the rights of property, and at the same time perhaps of the lack of regard for the rights of persons. If any one was so unfortunate as to be without the means of paying his creditors, they could take him into custody and compel him to work out the debt, or they could sell him into slavery and apply the proceeds to the payment of their claim. Even after stern justice came to be tempered with mercy, in its application to poor debtors, little leniency was shown except in the most excusable cases. Legal imprisonment took the place of private enslavement, and debtors were ruthlessly cast into prison, on the sole charge that they did not pay their debts. The tempering of the rigors of the law was of slow growth, and centuries elapsed before the stamp of criminality was removed from debt and the Shylockian character of the creditor had been divested. Even in China yet indebtedness is treated as a crime, in some cases meriting decapitation of the debtor. The change that has taken place, however, may bear considerable criticism. While the harshness of the old law is not to be reverted to as worthy of emulation at the present time, it is a fit subject of inquiry, whether or not the leniency of the law to-day is not too far to the opposite extreme. If it is not wise to treat the debtor as a criminal, it may not be the essence of wisdom either to make him entirely irresponsible for the natural results of his acts. As the laws now exist, the cases are rare where a debtor suffers any serious inconvenience on account of debts which he cannot pay, or which he has so arranged that

the law cannot compel him to pay. Imprisonment for debt is now generally confined to those cases where fraud is involved in the contraction of the debt, or where dishonesty, involving breach of trust, malfeasance of office, or the like, has made the case assume rather the nature of a wrongful appropriation of property than a legal establishing of credit. The progress of legislation in this country has been toward the total abolition of imprisonment for debt. Unfortunately, at the same time there has been an apparent growth in the disposition of some people to obtain excessive credit on the one hand, or to evade payment of debt, on the other. Perhaps the objection that lies against the extreme clemency of the law, is that the acts of the debtor after obtaining credit have not been made the subject of investigation, as well as those at the time. Daniel Webster, in a private letter discussing the subject of "Imprisonment for Debt," written in 1830, lays down a safe rule, which might with great good have been closely followed. He expressed himself opposed to imprisonment for debt, "where it appears that no fraud has been practiced, or intended, either in contracting the debt or omitting to pay it. But, when a man does not fulfil a lawful promise, he ought to show his inability, and to show also that his own conduct has been fair and honest. He ought not to be allowed merely to say he cannot pay, and then to call on the creditor to prove that his inability is pretended or fraudulent. He ought to show why he does not and cannot fulfil his contract, and to give reasonable evidence that he has not acted fraudulently. There are two sorts of fraud, either of which, when proved, ought to prevent a liberation of the person, viz: fraud in contracting the debt, and fraud in concealing, or making way with, the means of payment." Mr. Webster went still further, and insisted that a debtor should not be discharged from imprisonment if it was shown that he had "lost money in any species of gaming," in which class he included "all adventures in lotteries." His theory was that the debtor should be held responsible not only for fraud in securing credit, but for squandering his property in such a way as to put it beyond his power to meet the obligations which he had voluntarily contracted.

However distasteful must be the proposition to revive the old method of depriving debtors of their liberty, it needs no argument to demonstrate the soundness of the views of the great statesman and lawyer, just quoted. Those opinions may be more reconcilable with the advanced ideas of moderated justice of the present time, when it is remembered that Mr. WEBSTER was himself a champion of individual liberty. In the letter from which we have quoted, he says: "I have to say, that I never imprisoned any man for my own debt, under any circumstances; nor have I, in five and twenty years professional practice, ever recommended it to others, except in cases where there was manifest proof, or violent and unexplained suspicion of intentional fraud." In the light of recent experience, it would be hazardous to deny that the laws for the collection of debt fail signally of their purpose. The man who is unable to pay his debts is not a fit subject for court proceedings of any nature. The law which would punish or degrade him would be inhuman and barbarous, provided he is honestly and innocently insolvent. But the man who can pay if he wants to, should be made to pay whether he wants to or not. Do the laws accomplish this? In many cases they do not, and where the debtor is sharp enough to avail himself of his legal privileges, they cannot. Call to mind one of a hundred cases, and how plainly does the inefficiency of the law in this respect manifest itself. A debtor is sued; if he is vindictive or inclined to be troublesome, he takes advantage of the delays which the law offer him. He enters a defence, "staves off" the proceedings as long as possible, and when a judgment, after months or even years have elapsed, is rendered against him, with a meaning smile he suggests to his ill-treated creditor: "You have beaten me on the judgment, but I will beat you on the execution;" and he

does. The sheriff is called in to collect the amount of the judgment out of the defendant's property. If the debtor understands the efficacy of a ten dollar note, and the sheriff's deputy is properly posted in regard to taking care of number one, the extreme limit allowed by law for the return of an execution is measured. In the meanwhile the debtor has demonstrated how easily riches can take flight, and when the execution is returned, it bears the endorsement "*Nulla Bona*," which in plain English is "no good." In some States one resort is left to the baffled creditor: he can examine the debtor in "supplementary proceedings," to discover whether he has any property. He can "examine," but rarely can he "discover;" the debtor has nothing, if he ever had anything it has vanished, he is even depending upon the charity of his wife for his board and lodging. The wife's ability to support him may arise out of his previous generosity to her, but *she* is not bound to pay her husband's debts. This is in brief the history of hundreds of attempts to collect debts by law. Hundreds of other cases have not ended similarly, because creditors were too wise to waste time, money and patience in commencing them. Does it not appear that the collection of debts is becoming one of the lost arts?

STALWART FICTIONS.

It was under Mr. HAYES that one section of the Republican party began to define itself as stalwart. In the time of introducing a more tolerant policy toward the South, some very pronounced Republicans felt themselves alienated from sympathy with the President, and were anxious that he should pursue a more vigorous policy in the defence of the colored voters. In the circumstances, this sort of dissent was legitimate enough, and the public began to distrust it only when they found it so much associated with strong convictions about the distribution of offices in the North. When Mr. HAYES refused to place the official patronage of certain northern States at the disposal of the principal Republican Congressmen of those States, it was found that a great deal of indignation about those offices cloaked itself in the garb of dissent from the President's Southern policy. Personal loyalty to such leaders as Messrs. BUTLER, CONKLING, CAMERON and LOGAN—the readiness to wear their collars and run their errands—dubbed itself, to the public amusement, stalwartism. And the fundamental doctrine of the stalwartism of these gentlemen was that the Republican Party was so far exalted above the Ten Commandments that, like "the King," it could "do no wrong."

At this present moment there is but little difference of opinion as to Mr. HAYES's Southern policy. The party as a whole has given that policy a solemn and public approval, in its resolution approving the general conduct of the present administration. No one looks to see Mr. GARFIELD pursue a different course. All good citizens unite in the desire to see an end to sectional bitterness, and to the evils which provoked it. No one, unless it be Mr. BOUTWELL, wants to see the restoration of negro and carpet-bag rule in the South, and the return of military support to tottering governments. This does not mean that the party has ceased to complain of what has happened, and is likely again to happen, in the conduct of Southern elections. But no one has given better or more emphatic expression to its dissatisfaction than did Mr. HAYES in his last message to Congress; and in so doing he has been quite consistent with his whole conduct toward the South.

But stalwartism is as vigorous as ever. In losing its excuse for existence it has not lost its motive, for whatever cant it may talk about the South, that motive is to be found in *the offices*. The stalwarts are members of great political associations, under personal leadership, for the acquisition of as much power and pap as leader and followers can secure by their joint efforts. In Mr. GRANT's time the existence of these associations inside the party was fostered by their having a monopoly. Under Mr. HAYES they were

held together by hunger and hope. How will they fare under Mr. GARFIELD? That they have special claims on the new President, some of their organs have the impudence to assert. They almost reckoned every Republican vote cast in a county where Mr. CONKLING spoke, as a personal present to the candidate. They now depict Mr. GARFIELD as mourning the misrepresentations which are current of his personal relations to Mr. CONKLING, and quote him as saying that only mischief-makers have sought to create a coldness between him and the Senator who at the opening of the campaign refused to call on him, although they were stopping at the same hotel. And in the present struggles for the Senatorships in New York and Pennsylvania, doubtful voters have been warned that unless they vote for the CONKLING and CAMERON nominees they may expect nothing from Washington for themselves and their friends, for the old distribution of patronage is to be revived, and all things are to be as they were in the golden days of the GRANT administration.

These stalwart fictions appear and reappear in so many independent quarters, as to indicate a general agreement to whistle all together to keep stalwart courage up. This proceeding is necessary, for in Mr. GARFIELD's hands lies the power to break up these associations inside the party, and everything in his past record indicates his readiness to use the power. They are already weaker than they were four years ago. For four years Mr. HAYES has been sending offices in the other direction. There is already a great body of Republicans, with the advantage of official experience, who have either never worn the Senatorial collar, or who have put it off forever. This policy of preferring Independents and proscribing Stalwarts, we believe not to embody the highest wisdom. It was, indeed, Grantism under another guise, for it repeated Mr. GRANT's fundamental blunder of taking a faction of the party and not the whole party into consideration. But it did some good in making the Senatorial Triumvirate feel the weight of the oppressive maxims they had acted on in the previous eight years, and in weakening their personal following.

Our belief is that Mr. GARFIELD will pursue neither Mr. GRANT's policy nor that of Mr. HAYES in this matter. We look to see him ignore all lines within the party, as neither of these two gentlemen have done. It is indifference, not hostility, that will give factions the *coup de grace*. We have had twelve years of factional distribution of patronage under the Republican party, and they have been years of growing dissension. Let us have four years of a rule which shall know a candidate only as a Republican, and after that ask only as to his integrity and capacity,—which shall receive frankly recommendations from Senators and Representatives as from any one else,—and which shall accept dictation from no one in making the final selection. Let us have these from a man who can make his subordinates feel that they enter the public service, not to represent any leader or to serve any faction, but to attend to their duties and restore the credit of the party as a whole by the excellence of their administration. That, and that alone, is the policy which will dissolve the rings inside the party, and make their factional allegiance to a Senator or a Representative as barren as it is servile.

It is the vice of all party organization that its selfishness tends to "strike in" and to destroy the party's own life by breaking it into subordinate factions, each more eager for its own success than for the prosperity of the party or the prevalence of its ideas. The higher a party is in its primal aims, the greater the services it has undertaken or performed for its country or for mankind, the more this mischief of factional subdivision will prove when once it gathers head. *Optimi corruptio pessima*. We will owe it to Mr. GARFIELD if the tendencies already working so powerfully for the destruction of the Republican party are not allowed to precipitate its ruin.

TO SARAH BERNHARDT.

(After the last scene in "Camille.")

Not for to-night—not for to-night alone
 The death we saw; our tears
 Springing to mingle with your passion's moan:
 No! Through the unvoiced years
 Such death shall outlive life: your art's pure tone
 The waiting Future hears.

GEORGE PARSONS LATHROP.

DO WE DINE?

THOSE who can remember the time when Davy Crockett's sayings and doings furnished fun for the million, may not have forgotten his description, to his constituents, of the customs of fashionable society in Washington.

"Even the common people dine thar at two o'clock," he asserted. "The House o' Representatives have dinner at four. The Senate has their's at six."

"And the President?" gasped an auditor.

"Old Hickory!" here his imagination staggered under the desire to set a becoming space between his chief and the rest of mankind; "Oh! he don't dine 'till next day!"

The story is apt as illustrative of the popular idea in this country that the gathering weight of social distinction forces the season for the principal meal of the day farther and farther toward night-fall. Resistance to this dogma has much to do with the sturdy resolve of the architect of his own fortune, who is not ashamed of his early poverty, that, let others do as they may, he will have his noon-time dinner—"like a sensible man." The mechanic, clerk, small tradesman or day laborer accepts without demur the decree assigning to the busiest period of the twelve working hours the consumption and attempted digestion of the most solid and abundant viands committed to his stomach between dawn and midnight. During the "nooning" of one hour he must seek his home or other dining-place, devour his quantum of hot meats, vegetables and sweets, diluted with copious washes of ice-water or hot tea, and be back in the tread-mill before the gorged organ has begun to adjust itself to this latest outrage. "There is nothing social or æsthetic in an early dinner," sighed a young matron, who was doing her intelligent best to make lovely the commonest phases of daily life. "If I can make it decent, I am satisfied. My busy husband cannot await the regular succession of soup, fish, meat and dessert. He plunges in *medias res*—that is, calls for his roast beef and vegetables as soon as he takes his seat, wants coffee immediately, and is off before I can get breath for remonstrance. The truth is, while we eat regularly three times a day we never dine except on Sunday evening." No physical law ought by this time to be better known to civilized people than the danger of eating fast and heartily when weary or excited, unless it be the greater evil of active exercise immediately after a full meal. To the obstinate prevalence of the mid-day dinner we may attribute three-quarters of the national dyspepsia, if not the premature decay of intellectual and nervous powers, lashed to their work when the mighty instinct of the over-fed animal craves an interval of cheerful repose. As a people we have not time to dine properly or safely until the stress of the day's work is over.

The rich middle-class and the gentry of England, in which we find the finest specimens of bodily health known to this age, order household usages in accordance with appreciation of the laws above stated. True, the substantial luncheon of their elders is the children's dinner; but the latter are never remanded to the school-room immediately upon its conclusion. About the evening meal are grouped such accessories of dress, decoration and seemly ceremony as entitle it to the name of feast. It is unaccountable that amid the intense utilitarianism ruling in every department of our life, public, domestic and social, we have not with imperative unanimity set the American dinner where it naturally belongs—between the hours of 6 and 7 P. M., as an economical, labor and time-saving measure. The 12 or 1 o'clock luncheon consumes one-fourth of the time in preparation, one-half as much in the eating, as does the family dinner. The routine of day duty sustains scarcely an appreciable jar, and the digestive apparatus is stimulated, not clogged, by the reasonable quantity of food consigned to it. Hand-in-hand with the stubborn independence of the American who has made himself and is vain of the job, goes a hearty hatred of what he denominates foolish formalities,—what men, whose outgrowth has been symmetry,—not excrescence,—honor as the amenities and refinements of life. He "eats to live," he will tell you in humility, which is one of the many dire forms of his self-conceit. If your manners match his, you will retort that the beasts of the field and sty do likewise. If you are better bred you *think* it. It is time we lost patience with this ostentatious disdain of bodily wants and their proper culture. It stamps every fifth American one meets abroad—"boor;" impregnates the atmos-

phere of our "higher circles" at home with the varnish-smell of newness. The course dinner—a term of cis-Atlantic origin, by the way, is embarrassment and boredom to the average citizen. He prefers to see his provender massed—we had nearly written "messed"—upon the table before him, that he may dip and carve as he likes. It is a special interposition of providential or wifely grace, if he do not shovel it into his mouth with his knife. Yet our average man did not rise from the dregs of the populace. He is usually born of reputable parents, not generated from miasmatic filth. He may have eaten at a kitchen table in his boyhood, but his father was a free-holder, and the meal, spread for convenience sake in the room where it was cooked, was always bountiful. He has never wanted for good food and plenty of it. But, eating to live and in the middle of the day, when the business must be got out of the way in the shortest possible time, he has never learned how to eat, still less how to enjoy doing it. Even his love-feasts, to wit, Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthday entertainments, never rise above the level of a "feed." He may be—he generally is—hospitable at his table. Of the social element that leavens the trite process of supplying the body with food convenient for it into good cheer for soul and spirit as well, he is as ignorant as the Kalmuck who cooks his beef by warming it between his horse and saddle, and devours it without dismounting.

The remedy is plain. We have no hope that it will be generally adopted, but we commend it to the attention of the few housewives who give themselves time to think,—to the fewer householders who recognize their wives as rational beings, whose conclusions merit respect. Insist that your family shall *dine* every day, let the hour be when it may. Abolish the diurnal pic-nic, the pell-mell luncheon, the "bite," hot, hasty, and hearty,—that now passes under the name, and institute the real family dinner, a decorous and cheerful repast. Let no neatness, no prettiness, consistent with your means, be wanting from the array of napery and table ware. Whenever you can, have flowers, if it be but a single leaf and blossom, or a pot of heartsease in the centre of the table. The *épergne* of state-feasts will thus become a familiar sight to you and yours. The succession of soup, meat, etc., should be a matter of course, the removal of dishes and plates no novel task to your servant. The process will become easy and natural in a little while, even should there be rebellion on the part of the hireling—as is likely. American housewives have humored and truckled to their "help" until the poison of servile dictation is penetrating the whole body, domestic and social. Still, the fact remains that unanimous resolve and action on the part of the mistresses of a community must, eventually, prevail over the arrogance of untaught inferiors. The notoriously defective waiting at the tables of even our well-to-do classes has its witness, not only in the behavior of the servants, but in that of their employers. We heard, the other day, of a New York waitress, who inquired of a new mistress, "if the family was willin' to do their own reachin'." It saved a pore gurel manny a step when they was not above doin' it." This is fact, not caricature. Should the reader doubt it, let him judge from observation of a crowded hotel table—no matter how fashionable—what proportion of our fellow-countrymen and women are used, at home, "to do their own reaching."

Thomas Jefferson imported for his plantation at Monticello, half-a-dozen Scotch colly-dogs and a shepherd, and set them over his extensive flocks. The terrified sheep scattered wildly in every direction, pursued vainly by their guardians, and serious loss was the result. The author of the Declaration of Independence thus summed up the lesson of failure:

"It is not enough that dogs should know how to drive sheep. The sheep must also be used to the dogs."

Until the raw recruits, mustered into the irregular service of American households, are trained patiently and perseveringly in the practice of such decent forms of table-waiting as should obtain in every family of moderate means and passable refinement, we must remain a dinnerless people.

CONFEDERATE LITERATURE, III.

THE war of the Confederacy at one time seemed about to witness the birth of a genuine Southern literature. Several literary enterprises were established, and in the main flourished until cut short by the sudden termination of the struggle. At the very outset of the war, the firm of Hutton & Freleigh of Memphis, established a very creditable monthly, to which they gave their name. It went down after a few issues, involving its proprietors in loss. It was for this magazine that Henry L. Flash wrote his beautiful poem of "Zollicoffer." *The Southern Field and Fireside*, published, we think, at Augusta, Ga., maintained a checkered existence during the war, and perished with the Confederacy. In January, 1864, Messrs. Johnson & Schaffter established at Lynchburg, Va., *The Weekly Register*, which was intended to be a chronicle of current events in the style of *Niles's Register*. It was short-lived, and expired after less than a year's existence. Richmond was naturally the scene of the principal literary enterprises of the Confederacy, and the best and most successful weeklies and monthlies were published there. Their circulation extended throughout all parts of the South that could

be reached by the mails, and in the army. *The Record* was a handsome little sheet that would have done credit to any city. It was published by West & Johnston, and was edited by Mr. John R. Thompson, at one time the editor of *The Southern Literary Messenger*. It was devoted mainly to recording the current events in all quarters of the globe. Its news was condensed into well digested tables, which were most convenient for reference. Its editorials were ably written, and its correspondence was interesting and valuable. A full file of this journal, if one could be had, would be very valuable to the future historian. Mr. Thompson received considerable assistance from the Confederate State Department in the collection of his foreign news. *The Record* was published weekly, and could boast the whitest paper and the neatest printing of any journal issued in the South. *The Illustrated News* was the property of Messrs. Ayres & Wade, and was issued weekly. It had its own office, steam presses, and all the appointments of a complete establishment. The capital for the enterprise was furnished by Mr. Ayres, who undertook its business management. Mr. Wade was the editor of the journal and managed the printing office. He had served a faithful apprenticeship in journalism on the Richmond dailies, and while at the head of *The Illustrated News* was also city editor of *The Daily Inquirer*, filling both posts with credit. *The News* was a well edited and enterprising weekly of eight pages. One of its leading and most popular features was the publication, in each number, of a portrait and memoir of some distinguished Confederate general. This occupied the front page of the paper, and rendered it very attractive. Some of the portraits were admirable likenesses, others horrible caricatures. On the whole, however, the illustrations of *The News* were creditable, considering the resources at its command. The drawings on wood were made chiefly by W. L. Sheppard, whose reputation is now national. They were, like all of Mr. Sheppard's work, well done, and made a handsome appearance on the block. The engraving was the work, in most cases, of Captain J. W. Tolsch, the Baltimore engraver. The miserable paper and ink which *The News* was compelled to use, however, neutralized the efforts of artist and engraver. The illustrations were not very numerous, but they served to console in part for the loss of *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie*. The office of *The News* was destroyed in the fire of April, 1865, and the publication of the journal was not resumed after the war.

The Magnolia Weekly began its existence in the second year of the Confederacy. It was established by Mr. Charles Bailie, a printer of Richmond, the first number appearing on the 4th of October, 1862. It began as an unassuming four page sheet, about the size of *Harper's Weekly*, and struggled slowly into favor. Mr. Bailie, who had long been a consumptive, died in December, 1862. To his brother-in-law, Mr. William A. J. Smith, he declared that his greatest regret in dying was that *The Magnolia* would die with him. Smith, who was one of the most generous and unselfish of men, and who was devotedly attached to Bailie, on the impulse of the moment, promised that the paper should not die, but that he would carry it on himself. Bailie died immediately, and thenceforth Smith felt himself bound by a solemn obligation to carry *The Magnolia* to success. Being ignorant of the printer's art, or of publishing, he formed a partnership with Mr. Oakley P. Haines, one of the staff of *The Daily Inquirer*, who assumed the editorial charge. This was early in 1863. In March the size of the paper was increased to eight pages, and it was issued in new type and greatly improved in appearance. Under Mr. Haines's management the character of the paper was elevated. New contributors were secured, and the columns of the enlarged *Magnolia* showed everywhere the guidance of its editor. Mr. Haines soon found that his health was not equal to the labor, and deciding to retain his position on *The Inquirer*, sold his interest in *The Magnolia* to his partner Mr. Smith, and resigned the editorial charge. At his suggestion, the editorial chair was offered to the writer, and was accepted. It was a good representative of Southern literature. All of its leading articles were the productions of Southern writers, and its numbers contained very little reprinted matter. It paid its writers liberally; Mr. Smith often increased the compensation agreed upon, because he was personally attracted by some article in the paper. It was pure and healthy in tone, and never dull. Among the contributors to its columns were William Gilmore Simms, Paul H. Haine, Henry Timrod, A. J. Regnier, Captain John Esten Cooke, William Archer Cooke, (author of "The Constitutional History of the United States"), Professor E. S. Joynes, Professor Schele De Vere, Charles P. Dimitry, W. Gordon McCabe, Miss Susan Archer Talley, Miss Constance Caley, Mrs. Augusta DeMilly, and many others of the writers of the South.

In June 1863, *The Magnolia* offered a prize of five hundred dollars for the best original serial story. This was followed by an offer of one thousand dollars for a similar story on the part of *The Illustrated News*. Both drew out very good efforts in fiction. *The Magnolia* prize was won by Mr. Charles P. Dimitry, and that of *The Illustrated News* by Miss Mary Hawes of Hanover county, Va. Mr. Dimitry's story was a well written novel of English life, called "Guilty or not Guilty." Miss Hawes's story was called "The Rivals," and was a romance of the war. Mr. Dimitry's story was by far the better production. In the spring of 1864 the writer resigned the editorship of *The Magnolia*, and was succeeded by Mr. Charles P. Dimitry, who continued to direct it

until the destruction of the office in the fire of April, 1865, when the career of the paper came to a close.

The subscription price to the Richmond dailies was thirty dollars per annum. To the weeklies mentioned above it was twenty dollars. Three literary magazines were published in Richmond. The oldest and most famous of these was *The Southern Literary Messenger*, one of the best known journals in the South. It had been in existence for a quarter of a century or more before the outbreak of the war, and among its editors had numbered Edgar Allen Poe and John R. Thompson. Its contributors had included some of the best names in American literature. It had always ranked with the first-class periodicals of the country, but it had never reaped the pecuniary reward to which it was so justly entitled. For many years its existence had been a struggle. Its proprietors, Messrs. Macfarlane and Ferguson, had continued its publication more as a matter of pride than of profit, and after the war began found their burden a very heavy one. In the spring of 1864 they sold the Magazine to Messrs. Wedderburn and Alfriend. The Rev. Frank H. Alfriend, the junior member of the firm, assumed the editorial control, and without lowering its high standard, he infused new life into it, and made it a capital monthly. Yet, after all, the enterprise was not a pecuniary success. In the spring of 1864 Messrs. Smith and Barron, the proprietors of *The Magnolia*, issued a magazine entitled *Smith and Barron's Monthly Magazine*. *Blackwood's* was taken as the model for its outward appearance. The editor was Mr. Charles P. Dimitry, and the first number was very creditable, giving promise of more than ordinary literary excellence. The publishers were unable to carry on the enterprise, and it died after the issue of No. 1. *The Age*, also a monthly magazine, and perhaps the handsomest of all in appearance, was owned and edited by Mr. Ernest Lagarde, a Louisianian. He achieved a very decided literary success with it, but it was suspended after several numbers had been issued.

CANOEING IN AMERICA.

WITHIN the last year canoeing has for the first time become really popular in America. People are learning the distinction between that tiniest and prettiest of modern yachts, the civilized canoe, and the birch-bark sieve which has hitherto wrongfully monopolized the name of canoe in this country. There are to-day fully five hundred canoeists in the United States and Canada, and there have been built distinctive types of American canoes which, their designers claim, are better than any of the two thousand or more canoes that float in British waters. The first American canoe was built about fifteen years ago by Everson, the well-known Brooklyn canoe builder. A young Bostonian who had read Macgregor's "thousand miles in the Rob-Roy," determined to imitate that illustrious father of canoeing and applied to Everson to build him a copy of the Rob-Roy. The boat was built and her owner started in her to descend the Housatonic river. He underwent even more misery than usually falls to the lot of the canoeist, and his canoe was pounded to pieces in the rapids. He was quite satisfied with his experience and, so far as is known, has never replaced his unfortunate craft. In 1870, the New York canoe club was founded by Mr. W. L. Alden and seven associates. These gentlemen had canoes built by Everson, after the model of Mr. Baden-Powell's "Nautilus No. 3," which was then the latest novelty in canoeing. The club attracted a good deal of attention and a genuine interest in canoeing manifested itself. In the following year, Waters of Troy began to build paper canoes, and Jarvis of Watkins Glen built some of the most beautifully finished cedar canoes that have ever been seen.

Though the prospects of American canoeing seemed bright during the first year of the New York Canoe Club's existence, it was not long before they grew discouragingly dark. Three of these canoe clubs which had been formed between 1872 and 1873, drooped and died, and the New York club had difficulty in keeping up its organization. This dullness in canoeing—as a business man would phrase it—lasted until about three years ago, when the publication in different periodicals of accounts of several canoe cruises revived interest in the matter. Two new clubs, the Jersey City Canoe Club, and the Cincinnati Canoe Club were formed. Canoes of new and improved models were introduced, and new builders, such as Rushton of Canton, N. Y., Herald and English of Canada, and the Racine Boat Company of Racine, Wisconsin, turned their attention to canoe building, with excellent results. In August, 1879, a canoe congress, called by the New York, Jersey City and Cincinnati Canoe Clubs, met at Lake George and, with the co-operation of many canoeists unattached to any clubs, organized the American Canoe Association of which the three clubs became branches. The association has now twelve branch clubs—one of which contains fifty members—and a membership of from two to five hundred, as nearly as can be estimated,—the club book not having yet been issued. The second meeting will be held at Lake George, in August next, when in all probably seventy-four or more canoes from all parts of the Union and from Canada will take part in the various canoe races. Every few weeks new branch clubs are formed, and the demand for canoes is sufficient to keep the builders excessively busy.

Many long and creditable cruises have been made. Mr. Chambers has made a long voyage on the Upper Mississippi in a paper Nautilus, and Mr. Siegfried, Mr. Wulsin and other Western canoeists have made voyages in "Rob Roy's" down the rapids of the Mississippi, from its very source, and down the Delaware and the Potomac. Mr. Chase has cruised from New York to Quebec, and subsequently down the Connecticut in a "shadow;" and Mr. Farnham has cruised from New York to Lake St. John, on the Upper Saguenay, and has made at least a dozen other cruises of less length, but far more hazard. Mr. Bishop cruised in a paper "Nautilus" from Troy to the Gulf of Mexico, and Long Island has been fairly circumnavigated by two daring young men in canvass canoes. These are only a few among the scores of canoe cruises that our canoeists have made, and not a single serious accident has yet been reported. It is, however, in canoe building that the worthiest achievements of American canoeists are found. The English "Rob Roy" canoe can hardly be improved upon as a light canoe, designed chiefly for paddling, and adapted to descend narrow, swift and shallow streams; but Rushton has improved the method of constructing the "Rob Roy," so that his canoes of that type are distinctly superior to any of their English rivals. The "shadow" canoes, designed by W. L. Alden and built by Everson, are intended to combine as far as possible all the virtues, and to avoid all the faults, of other canoes; and it may be safely said that as a sailing canoe of large capacity, which can not only sail well but can be paddled with ease, the "shadow" model is so far unequalled. Mr. Stephens, of Rahway, has built several sailing canoes which have especial merits as such, and being full of ideas, he will probably embody some of them in a future canoe that will mark a real advance in canoe building. The most purely American achievements in canoe building are the smooth built canoes of Herald, English and the Racine company. The latter has built a close copy of the "shadow," without planks or timbers; the sides of the canoe being made of three veneers cemented together under pressure. This gives great strength and a perfectly smooth surface, and if experience shall prove that the Racine canoes are as durable as clincher-built cedar canoes they will probably supersede the latter. Mr. Herald and Mr. English build their canoes without timbers, by rivetting together two sets of planking, with the grain of one perpendicular to the grain of the others. These canoes are also smooth on the surface and are faster under sail before the wind than any other canoe. Unlike all other canoes, they are not decked over, and hence are not as good sea-boats or as safe in any water as the "Rob Roy," and shadow models. Waters, of Troy, who began to build paper canoes of the "Nautilus" model years ago, has never varied from that model; and as the "Nautilus" is now practically obsolete, the merits of paper canoes have never been fairly tested. Canvass has been largely used for building cheap canoes, but its only merit as a material for canoe building lies in its cheapness. When we compare what American canoe-builders have done within the last three or four years with what English canoe-builders have accomplished in twenty years, we on this side of the water have good reason to feel earnestly proud. Much may be hoped for from the influence of the American Canoe Association. It was formed by canoeists who recognize that the true end of canoeing is cruising, and it may be depended upon to encourage the building of cruising rather than racing crafts. The canoe should be a boat in which the owner can cruise where a row boat or a sail boat could not be used. This is the reason for its existence, and this reason does not apply to racing machines carrying iron centre-boards and lead ballast, and both by weight and build utterly unfit for cruising on any waters in which a cat boat could not be used. While the association will, of course, refrain from the folly of beginning a crusade against racing canoes, it can and undoubtedly will so manage its regattas as to encourage the building of cruising canoes only. These will probably be numbered by thousands within a very few years, for the canoe is so perfectly adapted to the inland waters of America, that it needs only to be known to become universally popular. The canoeist can enjoy everything that is delightful in yachting, at an almost nominal expense; and there are in the narrow streams of the North and the Canadas sylvan paradises into which he can readily penetrate, and of which the mere yachtsman must remain forever ignorant.

LITERATURE.

THE BOOKS OF 1880.

IT can hardly be said that the year that has just closed has been particularly notable from a literary point of view. There have been a great many books published, but few of them have been of really high quality, and as a rule it has not been the best books that have attracted the most attention. The year has not produced a new author of brilliant performance—or promise, even,—and the work done by our writers of established reputation has not been of a sort to merit high praise. Indeed, one of the least satisfactory characteristics of the existing literary situation in America, England and France is the apparent standing still of the recognized leaders and the absence of any indication that a young generation is coming up that will worthily replace them, when,—as in the inevitable process of things they soon must,—they pass away. In poetry, 1880 was almost a blank year. Hugo's poem, "L'Ane," was sounding nonsense; there was little to praise in Tennyson's "Ballads," some of which were abso-

lute drivel; and Longfellow's "Ultima Thule," though pleasant reading, did not contain any poetry of a high class. Browning's "Dramatic Idyls," though marked—and frequently marred—by his mannerisms, and Swinburne's "Studies in Song," though by no means equal to his earlier work, were perhaps the best books of poetry published during the twelvemonth. Nor were things much more encouraging in the department of fiction. "Endymion" was a great hit, but nobody—and least of all its author—would think of calling it a great book. Of the other novels of the year, it may be said that they were passable; people who read them, read them with pleasure; those who did not, could easily console themselves for their deprivation. William Black's "White Wings;" Amelia Edwards's "Lord Brackenbury;" James Payn's "Confidential Agent;" Henry James's "Washington Square;" Miss Fletcher's "Head of Medusa;" R. E. Francillon's "Queen Cophetua;" Julian Hawthorne's "Ellice Quentin;" Miss Yonge's "Love and Life;" Mrs. Oliphant's "He That Will Not When He May;" and Dickens's "Mudfog Papers"—these, while furnishing sufficiently interesting reading, cannot be said to rank in the forefront of modern fiction. Two exceptions to the general rule of mediocrity may be found in Victor Cherbuliez's "Le Roi Aepi," one of the best constructed little stories we have ever read, and Edmond About's delightful "Roman d'un Brave Homme."

Going from fiction to science, we find a decided improvement, and must admit that 1880 showed conspicuously the activity of our modern scientists and thinkers, and the attractive manner in which this fortunate generation has its knowledge served up to it. Mr. Herbert Spencer's "Ceremonial Institutions;" Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace's "Island Life;" Darwin's "Power of Movement in Plants;" Huxley's "Crayfish;" Mr. W. Boyd Dawkins's "Early Man in Britain;" Dr. Schliemann's "Ilios;" Mr. H. Charlton Bastian's "Brain as an Organ of Mind;" Mr. Frederick Pollock's "Spinoza"—these may all be mentioned as books alike valuable and attractive. The year, too, has seen the publication begun of the permanent records of the Challenger Expedition, which promise to rank with the finest works of their class. The field of History has been as well cultivated. Mr. Green's fine "History of the English People" has been finished; Mr. Edward A. Freeman has written a short "History of the Norman Conquest," that is a marvel of condensation and clearness; Justin McCarthy's "History of our Own Times," though full of flaws and faults, is one of the most popular books of the day; Ranke, we believe, has just published the first volume of his history; Colonel Jung, in his "Bonaparte et son Temps," has thrown a flood of light upon Napoleon's early life; Kinglake has given us another volume of his "Crimean War;" Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's "Young Ireland" has been—as it deserved to be—a great success; Mr. John Hill Burton has written an account of the time of Queen Anne, which has been favorably received, though, to our thinking, it is a poor book. The publication of M. Thiers's speeches has not been intermitted; Gambetta's orations and addresses have been given to the world, and there has been brought down nearly to date the collection of despatches, documents, etc., relating to the public life of Prince Bismarck, which will be invaluable to the future historian. The first volumes, too, of our official war records have appeared—a publication of no less importance.

It is not so very easy to say where the field of History ends and that of Biography and *Mémoires pour servir* begins. In the latter department of literature, 1880 has been really a phenomenal year. We have had the correspondence of Frederick the Great published; two new volumes by Saint Simon have been given to the world, and a translation of Pepys's diary, which is virtually a new book; Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort" has been concluded, and Mr. Eugene Schuyler's "Life of Peter the Great" begun; we have received the last instalment of the Rémusat memoirs, and the first instalment of the Metternich memoirs. Mr. George Otto Trevelyan's "Early Life of Charles James Fox" is one of the best books of the season; other biographies well-worth noticing are Arsène Hussaye's "Molière;" Henry James's "Hawthorne," Sensier's "Jean François Millet," and Huth's "Life of Buckle." Of contemporary biography, we may mention Herr George Brandes's singular study of Lord Beaconsfield; Mr. Barnett Smith's "Life of Gladstone;" Kossuth's "Memories of My Exile"—the second volume has, by the way, been published and shows that the great Hungarian was much more of a patriot than a politician; the Memoirs of Mme. Ratazzi, the Duke of Saldanha, and Adolphe Granier de Cassagnac; Hansen's "Coulisses de la Diplomatie," to which "Gregor Samaroff's" new volume on the destruction of Hanover will prove an invaluable companion-book; the memoirs and letters of Lord Ellenborough—these are all important contributions to the history of the century. There were also produced last year two excellent books on the home life of Guizot and the personal life of Livingstone, which should not be overlooked; an admirable American volume of somewhat the same sort, is the "Life of the Rev. Charles Hodge." More gossiping contributions, but still deserving mention, were Alphonse Karr's "Log Book," Chevalier Wikoff's "Reminiscences of an Idler," and Mr. N. M. Ludlow's "Dramatic Life as I found it;" Mr. Hayward's new volume of "Sketches" should not be overlooked in making up the list, from which, however, two books that have been eagerly expected are missing; Sir George Webbe Dasent's "Life and Letters of Delane" of the London *Times*, and Jefferson Davis's recollections.

In the matter of books of travel and descriptive works the year that has just closed was less noteworthy. Mr. Henry Havard's "Bird's Eye View of Holland;" M. Charles Yriarte's "Florence;" Edmondo de Amicis' "Holland and its People," and Escott's "England," are undoubtedly the most important volumes of this sort published in 1880. Two valuable and most readable books on Japan have been given to the world—one by Miss Isabella Bird; the other by Sir Edward J. Reed. Major W. F. Butler's "Far Out" and Mr. Lawrence Oliphant's "Land of Gilead" are also worth mentioning. Lieutenant Greene's excellent book, "Army Life in Russia," and Mr. Louis J. Jennings's volume on the "Peak of Derbyshire and the South Downs," may complete the list. The "Miscellaneous" catalogue

need not be very long. The new edition of Admiral Preble's monumental "History of the Flag" should be mentioned, and Sidney Lanier's delightful "Boy's Froissart." Of standard books of reference, 1880 has seen new editions of Vapereau's standard "Dictionnaire des Contemporains" and Lippincott's standard "Gazetteer." The "Encyclopædia Britannica" has attained its twelfth volume, and considerable progress has been made with Grove's "Dictionary of Music and Musicians"—unquestionably the best book of its kind ever published. Mahaffy's "History of Greek Literature," Sidney Lanier's "Science of English Verse," and Zola's egotistical and abusive but frequently truthful book, "Le Roman Experimental" may be classed together. Lord Ronald Gower's "Great Historic Galleries" and Professor Charles E. Norton's admirable and modest "Studies of Church Building" in medieval Italy; Dr. Samuel Smiles's "Duty;" Jonathan Edwards's recently discovered "Scripture Economy of the Trinity;" Mr. J. C. Harris's pioneer volume of American folk-lore, "Uncle Remus;" Mr. Scoones's interesting "Four Centuries of English Letters"—not a very apt title, by the way; Ruskin's "Arrows of the Chace;" Dumas's two treatises, "La Divorce" and "*Les Femmes qui tuent et les Femmes qui Votent*," and Mark Twain's "Tramp Abroad," all deserve mention. The lists we have thus hurriedly run over are by no means complete, but in them the reader will find the names of nearly every important work issued last year.

In conclusion, a few words as to the drift of the book-making and book-publishing industries. The feature of recent years in the United States has been the publication of cheap popular editions of new standard works. We have the "Franklin Square," "Seaside," and other "libraries" which circulate annually millions of copies—not only of fiction but of science, and these libraries have the advantage of supplying the poorer class of readers with valuable books at a nominal cost, and of allowing those better off to economize by reading cheap editions of works they do not need to preserve. The English reading public, that has had to pay \$8 for "Endymion," when it could be purchased in New York for a dime or so, has been aroused to vigorous agitation, and we look to see, at no distant day, a revolution in the whole English publishing system. These same cheap editions will not be without their effect in settling the problem of international copyright. Finally, the manifest tendency of literature now-a-days is towards the periodical press, which is as wide-embracing in its creed as was old Terentius himself. It may fairly be doubted whether, what with the daily and weekly papers and the magazines, there will be so many books written in the future. From the periodical press there will be obtained an ampler remuneration; through it an immense constituency can be reached, and as life becomes more hurried authors will resort to it more regularly. So, at least, we think.

UNBEATEN TRACKS IN JAPAN.—By Isabella L. Bird. Miss Bird's substantial volumes of Japanese travel are exciting much interest and receiving much praise in England—and well they may. Their merit entitles them to widespread recognition in this country as well. As politicians, we take too little interest in Japan; as students of art, social science and anthropology, we take too little interest in Japan. The time is not far distant when our Eastern problem will have as absorbing interest for Americans as that of England has for Englishmen. Miss Bird's book is of such a nature as to renew our flagging interest. It is fascinating throughout. Among the many works on Japan that have appeared of late, this has the peculiarity of being written by a lady who travelled with a single attendant through regions in Western Nippon and Yezo, which had never before been traversed by Europeans. Miss Bird is an English lady, whose intrepid horse-back feats in the Rocky Mountains had made her widely known and admired before the appearance of this her latest work. Her descriptive and observing powers are admirable. She unites to these a quiet humor, and a disciplined and patient intellect. In these volumes the interior life of Japan—its family life, its folk-life—are for the first time delineated in minute and picturesque description. It seems as if it needed a woman to notice and record in quiet touches the little details which are always our criteria in judging of a people. The author did well, we think, in giving a few elementary facts and statistics in her introductory and concluding chapters. They are fresh, and not easily accessible. It is perhaps safe to say that not one foreigner in a thousand knows such facts as these: that Japanese cats have rudimentary tails, that the houses are uniformly almost dull grey in color, gilding; etc., being confined to the temples; that only seven ports are yet open to foreigners, and that they can not travel 25 miles from these without a passport; that there are no longer Shoguns (or Tycoons) at Yedo; that the daimios are shorn of their titles, as well as the two-sworded men, their retainers of the old days of chivalry; that the Mikado exercises a mild despotism from his capitol, Tōkiyō, or Yedo; that Shintō, not Buddhism, is the State religion now; that in 1879–80, the grand total of revenue (according to the finance minister's report), was \$53,424,000, and the expenditure exactly the same, the public debt being \$349,572,432, the imports (for 1878) amounting to \$33,334,392, and the exports to \$26,259,419, and finally the paper money circulation equaling \$129,600,000, (discount sometimes as high as 52 per cent.); that the powerful Shoguns of Yedo were formerly the chief vassals of a "shadowy" Mikado at Kiyōto, but really exercised supreme power themselves; that in 1868 the Mikado was re-instated; that the government consists of a Supreme Council and a Legislative Council, and that recently a step has been taken toward constitutional government in the creation of primary (or local) assemblies,—provincial parliaments, whose functions are, however, at present limited "to the discussion and arrangement of the expenditure to be met out of the local taxes"; that, according to the Japanese newspapers (which have an aggregate circulation of 29 million copies), "the whole population of the country is actuated by one burning desire for representative institutions;" that the standing army consists of 35,560 men, the navy of 27 vessels and 4,242 men; that the Japanese have the English postal system in all its complexity, from P. O. savings banks down to wayside letter boxes; that they have a thousand miles of telegraphic wires in operation, and employ Bell's tele-

phones in the Department of Public Works; that they have an admirable fleet of coast steamers; that their penal code is barbarous and medieval; and that, finally (notwithstanding all this material prosperity), the progress "has been intellectual rather than moral," that licentiousness abounds, and a spirit of selfish exclusiveness is exhibited toward foreigners still, the object being to get from us all we know and then summarily get rid of us.

Miss Bird landed in Yokohama on the 21st of May, 1878. The city is of a mongrel character in architecture, and disagreeable in most respects. The first thing noticeable was the *Keruma* or jin-ri-ki-sha, a light, man-drawn two-wheeled vehicle, gorgeously lacquered and painted with contorted dragons, hydrangeas, chrysanthemums, etc. They have a hood of oiled paper for rainy weather. The *kuruma* runners make from thirty to forty miles per day, but the work kills them off rapidly. The foreigners of Yedo, including the legation, are confined to disagreeable narrow quarters, and the impression one gets from books on Japan is that they do not have a very enviable time of it. Yedo is another Venice. On its numerous canals and its rivers in the summer evening, thousands of gondolas and other craft glide about decorated with colored lanterns, while the music of native guitars tinkles on every hand. The basis of the costume of men and women is the *kimono*, a garment that resembles the Greek chiton. It has sleeves, however, which often hang down nearly to the ground in long bags which are used as pockets. Ladies of the higher order wear an undergarment of silk and all wear a girdle, or obi. Trowsers are sometimes worn by the peasants, but nudity is of startling frequency. There is no sense of shame about some of the men, it appears. Nudity is prohibited by law now, but the nuisance is not much abated. Miss Bird saw only two ladies in Japan who wore the European dress; their own Japanese dress becomes them better. Before setting out, the author visited, and has described, the great Buddhist temple of Yedo, dedicated to the goddess *Kwan-non*. One incident is peculiar: "In one shrine there is a large idol spotted all over with pellets of paper, and hundreds of these are sticking to the wire netting which protects him. A worshipper writes his petition on paper, or better still, has it written for him by the priest, chews it to a pulp, and spits it at the divinity. If, having well aimed, it passes through the wire and sticks, it is a good omen; if it lodges in the netting the prayer has probably been unheard." This temple resembles a great fair in the aspect of its outer courts and grounds. Within there was the usual trumpery of hideous idols, incense, bronze, lacquer, etc. On June 10th, Miss Bird set out with some trepidation on her long journey to the Northern coast of Nippon. This journey she accomplished in two months, crossing over to Yedo by a *sampan* or coast steamer, to the land of the Ainos, —a land of Siberian cold in winter. Her outfit consisted of Wellington boots, a mountain dress, broad native hat, air-pillow for *Keruma* travelling, folding chair, and a canvass stretcher two and a half feet high to protect her from the ferocious fleas which swarm everywhere. She was told by everybody that it would be impossible to get good food, but, disregarding advice of all kinds, took only a little chocolate, four pounds of raisins, brandy, and a small supply of Liebig's extract. Her paper money was in bundles of *yen* and *sen* pieces. The aspect of the country around Yedo was monotonous and ugly. Huge rice fields abound—this being (with tea) the staple product of the country. Along the highway are *chayas*, or tea-houses, and *yadoyas* or lodging houses. Our traveller's first experience in the *yadoyas* would have been highly ludicrous if they had not been productive of apprehension and a good deal of nervousness in her mind. There was no such thing as privacy. The sliding screens were continually being slyly drawn back, to enable peepers to look through; there were eyes at every shōji, or window, and uproarious hilarity continued almost all night at many of these inns. Fleas were awful, and police officials often pertinacious, although respectful. "The farming villages are comfortable and embowered in wood, and the richer farmers seclude their dwellings by closely-clipped hedges, or rather screens, two feet wide, and often twenty feet high. Tea grew near every house, and its leaves were being gathered and dried on mats." Signs of silk culture began to appear. The atmosphere was warm and very moist, the thermometer being near 86° most of the time. "The red gold of the harvest fields contrasted with the fresh green and exquisite leafage of the hemp; rose and white azaleas lighted up the copse-woods; and when the broad road passed into the colossal avenue of cryptomeria, which overshadows the way to the sacred shrines of Nikkō, and tremulous sunbeams and shadows flecked the grass, I felt that Japan was beautiful, and that the mud-flats of Yedo were only an ugly dream!"

Nikkō is the site of the stupendous and magnificent shrines of Iyēyasu (Japan's greatest man, died 1617) and Iyēmitzu, his son. The most attractive chapters in the book are those which describe the traveller's stay at Nikkō. She had the good fortune to make her stay with a refined private family, in a picturesque and romantic cottage. She calls the house "a Japanese Idyll." The exquisite taste, kindness and poetical character of the family made her stay very delightful, as well as instructive. The house had that pure, light, toy-like character that is characteristic of all Japanese houses. As an example of decoration take this: "In one room hangs a wall-picture, a painting of a blossoming branch of a cherry on white silk, which in itself fills the room with freshness and beauty. The artist who painted it painted nothing but cherry blossoms, and fell in the rebellion," (the Satsuma rebellion of 1877). "A single spray of rose azalea in a pure white vase hanging on one of the polished posts (of another alcove), are the only decorations." This elegance led the writer to marvel at our Western taste in floral decorations, and to compare these elegant flower displays with our crushed masses of flowers called bouquets. "In Japan the art of arranging flowers is taught in manuals, the study of which forms part of a girl's education." Children's parties are described, also circulating libraries, and affection of parents for children. One of the chief points of value in Miss Bird's book is that she is cool-headed, realistic, and matter-of-fact in her descriptions, being totally devoid of the gush and exaggeration that have become proverbial attributes of travellers. She is determined to see things

through no glamour of romance, and tells the unpleasant truth about everything that requires it, especially about the peasants and the folk-life in general. It is therefore with confidence that we listen to her expressions of rapture over the splendid temple-shrines of Nikkō. She says of the shrines that they are the most wonderful work of their kind in Japan. "The bronze fret-work alone is a study, and the wood carving needs weeks of earnest work for the mastery of its ideas and details. * * The fidelity to form and color in the birds, and the reproduction of the glory of motion, could not be excelled." She speaks of "halls laid with matting so soft that not a foot-fall sounds, across whose twilight the sunbeams fall aslant on richly arabesqued walls and panels carved with birds and flowers, and on ceilings panelled and wrought with elaborate art;" "inner shrines of gold," "golden lilies six feet high," "curtains of gold brocade," "incense fumes," "mythical fauna," "lacquer screens," "groves of bronze lanterns, and shaven priests in gold brocade, and Shintō attendants in black lacquer caps."

From Nikkō northward the route lay through "unbeaten tracks." Miss Bird says of the safety of travelling in this region: "My fears, though quite natural for a lady alone, had really no justification. I have since travelled 1,200 miles in the interior, and in Yezo, with perfect safety and freedom from alarm, and I believe that there is no country in the world in which a lady can travel with such absolute security from danger and rudeness as in Japan." This is really a very remarkable fact, considering the semi-barbarous nature of the rural districts, the lack of carriage roads, and the fact that no European had passed through that portion of the country. The only means of locomotion (with a few exceptions) after leaving Nikkō, were pack-horses (sorry beasts) which traversed the bridle-paths of the country. Through many hardships and fatigues, caused by the wretched horses and wretched roads, the intrepid lady and her interpreter, Ito, arrived at Niigata. It is impossible to compress into a single review the hundredth part of the wealth that is to be found in Miss Bird's books. She saw the country with a compound microscope. A few incidents may be mentioned. "Books are remarkably cheap. Copyright is obtained by a Japanese author by the payment to government of a sum equivalent to the selling price of six copies of his work. The booksellers in Niigata told her that there is not the same demand now as formerly for native works on the history, geography and botany of Japan. Translations of Tyndal, Huxley, Darwin and Spencer abound, and are read by students of higher schools. The higher classes believe nothing: the lower are profoundly and puerilely superstitious. A wedding in the *heimin* class is described, other travellers having described only weddings of the higher *samurai* class. An interesting document follows—the *Japanese Code of Morals for Women*. *Saké* (made from fermented rice) is the beer of Japan, and the brewers are very wealthy. Miss Bird bears continual testimony to the mildness and quietness of the people, and especially of the children. Children dress as old people do, and are demurely sedate and quiet. The author states that *she never heard a baby cry in Japan!* (Let us all go there and marry!) "Filial piety is the leading virtue." The children are described with much satisfaction, as being like grown people in manners, playing by themselves and never shouting and kicking and "raising Cain" as our children do. We fear these little Rollos and Sanfords and Mertons would fare ill at the hands of our boys. The children there have katydid in cages, which they feed; they fly kites, and "harness paper carts to the backs of beetles with gummed traces, so that eight of them draw a load of rice up an inclined plane." Some of the proverbs of the people are interesting: "Scattering a fog with a fan," "If you hate a man let him live," (Buddhist). "To be over polite is to be rude." "Famous swords were made of iron scrapings." "The throne of the gods is on the brow of a righteous man."

At Aomori Miss Bird crossed to Yezo Island. Here she met friends at the Church Mission House. She had performed a great feat, and one which challenges our admiration. She was an invalid, be it remembered, seeking health by travel. At times her spine troubled her so much that she could only ride or walk a few minutes at a time. She had been drenched with rains, bitten by fleas, and almost asphyxiated by the foul air of inns for two months. When she reached Hakodate, in Yezo, she was water-soaked, and mud-bespattered from head to foot. She expresses quietly her happiness at having a lock on her door, sleeping in a bed, and receiving letters from home. The second volume is half taken up with the author's travels in Zezo, and half by additional chapters and essays on various aspects of Japanese life. Zezo is a thinly populated island, and life is there free and comparatively unfettered by government regulations. It is interesting as containing the remnant of the aborigines of Japan, the Ainos, a totally distinct race. They are stupid, gentle, good-natured people, and submissive. Their language is low and musical. They have been called "the hairy Ainos." Miss Bird met the "Missing Link," a disgusting and degraded old man with snaky grey locks and matted beard. "The limbs and body, with the exception of a patch on each side, were thinly covered with fine black hair, more than an inch long, which was slightly curled on the shoulders." We must here part with our author. We have but one fault to find with her: she occasionally gives us ethical and religious disquisitions and digressions. In the midst of her delightful descriptions and exhaustive records we find ourselves disagreeably startled by the little asides of missionary talk about "Our Lord Jesus Christ," and the bearing of such and such a fact upon the success of Christianity and its propagandism in the empire. They are all right in their place, but seem hardly in place in the "Unbeaten Tracks of Japan." New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1881, 2 vols. 799 pp., with map.]

DRIFT.

—A history of the first Church of Boston, from its formation to the present time, including an account of the house of worship now occupied by it, prepared by Arthur B. Ellis, with an introduction by the Rev. George E. Ellis, will be published, by subscription, by Hall & Whitney, of Boston.

—The shadow of Time fell not very heavily upon the world of celebrity during the year that closed last month. From our own fair land we miss Bishop Gilbert Haven, "the Sydney Smith of America;" Jonathan Townley Crane, Robert L. Dashiell, Missionary Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Samuel Osgood, D. D., L. L. D., Rufus Anderson, D. D., Henry A. Boardman, D. D., Nathan Bishop, D. D., William Adams, D. D., L. L. D., Samuel Dexter Denison, D. D., Samuel Hanson Cox, D. D., father of Bishop Cox; Bishop David S. Doggett, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; Stephen M. Vail, D. D., and Edwin Hubbell Chapin, D. D., from the ranks of the ministry. The advancement of science has been retarded in the demise of James Clark Maxwell; David Thomas Austed, Christian August Friedrich Peters, the German astronomer; William Hallowes Miller, the mineralogist; Cyprien M. Tessie du Motay, a French chemist; Louis Francois Pourtales, the pupil and friend of the late Professor Agassiz; General Albert J. Myer, of the Signal Service; William Ballantyne Hodgson, Charles Thomas Jackson, one of the reputed discoverers of anaesthetics; Samuel Stehman Haldeman, the geologist; Benjamin Pierce, L. L. D., the astronomer and physicist; Edouard Seguin, the specialist, and Balthazar Buonomagagni. The bench and bar have suffered equally. Among the losses to England were Edward Vaughn Hyde Kenealy, of Tichborne trial notoriety; Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Judge of the English Court of Exchequer; of Right Hon. Baron Thesiger, and of Sir Alexander Cockburn, the Lord Chief Justice of England, who was also prominently before the world in the Tichborne case and the Alabama Claims Commission. France lost Jules Nicolet, an advocate of preëminence. To the United States were lost: Judge Winthrop W. Ketchum, Chief Justice Sanford E. Church, Judge William E. Curtis, of the Supreme Court; Judge James P. Sinnott, Chancellor Erastus C. Benedict, and Benjamin K. Phelps.

In diplomacy happily the losses have all been in other lands than ours. France mourns the loss of Jules Claude Gabriel Favre, who died early in the year; of the Duke de Gramont, and of M. Hippolyte-Philibert Passy. From among English diplomats two distinguished names are absent, that of Lord Hampton, and that of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, "the father of English diplomacy." The Spanish Liberal, Don Jose Maria Oreuse, died November 8. The devotees of war have been no less fortunate, and many gallant souls have been dropped from the roll. The name of Rear-Admiral Henry K. Thatcher, U. S. N., heads the list; General Joseph Venoy, a French veteran; General Frederick Vilmar, N. G. S. N. Y.; Major-General Samuel P. Heintzelman, U. S. A.; Lieutenant-Colonel David P. Hancock, U. S. A.; Colonel Joseph C. Audenried, U. S. A.; General Lord Alfred Paget, K. C. B., the leader of the famous Balaklava charge; Major-General Joseph B. Kiddoo, U. S. A.; Major-General Alfred T. A. Torbert, U. S. A., whose death recalls the loss of the City of Vera Cruz off the Florida coast; Brigadier-General Richard S. Satterlee, U. S. A.; Field-Marshal Sir Charles Yorke, a veteran who fought at Waterloo in the Crimea; Brigadier-General Zeilin, U. S. Marine Corps; Captain R. B. Lowry, U. S. N., and Chief Engineer William S. Osborne, U. S. N.

From politics are gone: Henry S. Foote; Governor William Bigler, of Pennsylvania; Herschel V. Johnson, the candidate for the Vice-Presidency on the ticket headed by Stephen A. Douglas, 1860; Lafayette S. Foster, ex-Judge and ex-Senator of Connecticut, and Governor James Douglas Williams, of Indiana.

Coming next to the world of letters we find the list long and illustrious. Among the names are these: Gustav Flaubert, the French novelist; Edouard Fournier, the French dramatic author; James Robinson Planché, the English antiquarian authority; William Thomas Thornton, George Ripley, L. L. D.; Pierce Egan, the novelist; Tom Taylor, the playwright; Juan Emilio Hartzenbusch, the Spanish dramatist; William Henry Wills, once the associate of Dickens in several literary enterprises; Maria Louisa Charlesworth, Lydia Maria Child, Lucretia Mott, Estelle Del Monte Lewis ("Stella"); and George Eliot. On the Continent of Europe, the Countess Hahn Hahn and Paul Edme de Musset, a brother of Alfred de Musset, are missing. The drama mourns: George Honey, comedian, the original *Eccles* in "Caste"; John Brougham, Mrs. Charles Kean (formerly the celebrated Ellen Tree); Lilian Adelaide Neilson, and Harry Beckett, the comedian. Art has lost several of her most famous sons. William Morris Hunt, the American portrait painter, died in June; Pierre Paul de Pompadour, the French portrait painter; William F. de Haas, marine artist; Philippe Lemaire, the French sculptor; Sandford Robinson Gifford, American landscape painter; Robert M. Pratt, portrait painter; Jules Jacquemart, etcher and engraver, and Leon Cogniet, the French historical painter. Of musicians, Sir John Goss, the English organist, died May 1; Rev. John Curwen, the improver of the "tonic-sol-fa" method of singing, May 27; Henri Wieniawski, the Polish violinist, July 10; Ole Bornemann Bull, Norwegian violinist, August 18; Jacques Offenbach, French composer, October 5; and William Jarvis Wetmore, the American composer, November 26.

—A curious little book has lately been published in Florence, Italy. It is entitled *Dante and the Statistics of Languages*, by Filippo Mariotti, with a collection of the verses in the *Divine Comedy*, set to music by various masters. The *Nuova Antologia* in a review of the volumette (as it calls it) very pertinently and sensibly asks, *cui bono?* The application of statistics to literature by scientific methods is often productive of valuable philological results; e. g., it is worth something to know that Petrarch applies the adjective *dolce* to 117 substantives with entirely distinct meanings. But Mariotti goes much farther; since, not content with asking of statistics the confirmation and the proof of certain facts, he accumulates statistical data, in the expectation that consequences from them will result in good time." In other words, he heaps up useless statistics, such as these: "he searches out in the *Divine Comedy* the number of verses of which each canto is composed, the number of words in each verse, and the proportion between the cantos, verses, and words; breaks up the form into words, and arranges them in statistical epitomes according to the parts of speech, and determines the proportion of these parts of speech; inquires what part contains Italian words; and, finally, investigates the number of names that are masculine, the number that are feminine, and with what letter they commence. Digressing here and there in a desultory way, he makes a few applications of the statistics to languages," and at the close gives experiments upon the number of words that persons from the various provinces are able to pronounce in a minute. With respect to a Dante-concordance, the reviewer in *Nuova Antologia*, from whom we have quoted (Signor D. Guoli) remarks that we have at present only the Dante-vocabulary of Blanc; but that the want is likely to be met by *Vocabolario Enciclopedico-Dantesco*, compiled by the Count E. Gaddi Hercolani, and of which only one number has as yet been published.

—The new Opera House erected by Lucae before the Bockenheimer Gate at Frankfurt, is said to give great satisfaction. A German periodical remarks: "The architecture gives an impression of grandeur and magnificence as it towers up in the splendor of its material. The eye rests with pleasure upon the sandstone blocks and the rich, symmetrically arranged bronzes. The Pegasus upon the summit of the roof, and the Apollo over the porch would show plainly enough that one is standing before a theatre, even without the inscription 'Dem Wahren, Schönen, Guten,' which leaves room for conjectures." * * * From far and wide the building is visible, rising above the tree-tops and the roofs of houses. The curtain inside is very appropriately decorated with a representation of the Prologue to *Faust*, after a composition of Steindl's.

Goethe's debt to Frankfort was very great, and it is fitting to remember him in this new Opera House.

—A new work of Goethe has lately been discovered by Professor Arndt of Berlin. It is in prose, and consists of but a few pages of MS. It is a sort of pastoral with bits of verse and song interspersed.

—*L'Intermédiaire des Chercheurs et Curieux* for November 25th clears up an obscure point in Alfieri's history, i. e. the name of a villa in Alsace where he passed a good part of three years in the company of the Countess of Albany, and where he finished his three tragedies of *Agis*, *Sophonis be* and *Myrrha*. It appears that the name of the villa was Wettolsheim. The writer in *L'Intermédiaire* quotes from the *Petit Gazette d'Alsace* (1861), as follows: "The Countess of Albany set out from Rome in the month of June, 1784. She directed her course at first toward the Tyrol; thence she went to Germany, then Alsace. Arrived at Colmar a happy chance led her to discover not far from the city a retreat perfectly adapted to her taste and to her projects; she resolved to cast anchor here. This retreat was the château de Wettolsheim, belonging at that time to M. de Schauenbourg, and to-day the property of the Boehler family. The name of Wettolsheim is not found in the *memoirs* of Alfieri, who always speaks of his country seat near Colmar, without indicating the place; but we can affirm (in accordance with information got in the place itself, where there is a tradition of an illustrious foreign princess and a grand Italian signor, who was not her husband), that it was undoubtedly in the beautiful solitude of Wettolsheim that Alfieri and his *adorata donna* came to hide their happiness. The last *valet de chambre* of Alfieri, was a Wettolsheimer; he died in his village some years ago. We did not have the advantage of knowing him, but one of his friends, M. Bitterlin, acting Mayor of Wettolsheim, assures us that he got directly from him several of the facts mentioned in this article. The situation was well chosen, and nothing could be better suited to rich and poetic lovers;—A vast habitation, gardens, shade, and a terrace from which the eye takes in a view of magnificent extent."

—The next number of the *North American Review* will contain articles by Judge Tourgee, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and General Grant.

—In the January Bulletin of the Philadelphia Library, containing a list of books recently added to the Company's collection, there are several titles of interest to the bibliophile. Among these may be mentioned the first edition of the Constitutions of the United States, of which two hundred copies were printed in 1781 for the use of the Continental Congress. This copy was that of Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, from whose library, bequeathed by his son, Dr. James Rush to the Ridgeway Branch, we note also Colles' "Survey of the Roads of the United States," New York, 1789; Phillis Wheatley's Poems, London, 1793; Bryan's "Mountain Muse," Harrisonburg, 1773; a pamphlet published by the "Black people" of Philadelphia in justification of their conduct in the Yellow Fever of 1773; "Remarks on Mr. Washington," Philadelphia, 1797; and Dr. Franklin's anonymous "Reflections on Courtship and Marriage," Philadelphia, 1744. Of the latter, we believe the only other copy known to bibliographers was sold recently at the Brinley sale.

This bulletin contains also a few of the more important titles of the pamphlets—about 8,500 in number—acquired by the Ridgeway Branch at the sale of the late Henry D. Gilpin's library. These include 1,385 tracts—bound in seventy-three volumes—relating to American Politics. Among them are several pamphlets for and against Nullification, published in South Carolina and Mississippi in 1832 and 1833; an "Address of the Citizens of Texas to the people of the United States," dated San Felipe de Austin, 26th October, 1835, and printed on a broadside at Natchitoches, La., the *Annuaire Louisianais*, New Orleans, 1809; twenty pamphlets published in York, Canada, between 1820 and 1830. The *Oregon Spectator*, No. 1, Oregon City, 1849; and Robert Goodloe Harper's "Oration on the Birth of Washington," Alexandria, 1810; the peroration of the latter rare tract is worth quoting: "To you who intimately knew him I need not recount how just he was in his dealings, how humane in his conduct, how beneficent in his disposition; how kind was his deportment, how polished his manners, how candid and liberal his mind, and how unbounded his hospitality. To his friends and neighbors I need not say, that he was the truest friend and the kindest neighbor. To his mourning family and relatives I need not relate that he was the tenderest husband, the fondest father, and the most indulgent master. The poor who partook of his charity need not be reminded how full and constant was its stream." Mr. Gilpin was an indefatigable collector, and his position for many years as Attorney-General of the United States gave him great advantage for receiving out-of-the-way books and pamphlets.

The Loganian Library, of which the Directors of the Library Company are masters, and which now forms the ornament of the main gallery at the Ridgeway Branch, at Broad and Christian streets, has acquired recently a copy of James Logan's "Charge to the Grand Jury," Philadelphia, 1723, and his "Antidote to David Lloyd," Philadelphia, 1725. Also the following very rare pamphlets: Hopkins' "Address on the Indians," Philadelphia, 1775; "Considerations on Slavery," Burlington, 1713; and Lowry's "Captivity among the Indians," Philadelphia, 1760; together with a complete set, in seven volumes of the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, 1767-1773.

Turning to the Philadelphia Library proper, or the circulating department, we notice a set of the voluminous and valuable publications of the India office, including the geographical and archaeological Surveys of Hindostan, the publication of the *Wormsloe Press*, so highly prized by collectors; a manuscript copy of the unique pamphlet published in Philadelphia by Reimer in 1726, entitled "A just rebuke to a dialogue betwixt Simon and Timothy," by Francis Rawle; and ten volumes of the publications of the Master of the Rolls in 1879, in continuation of the set formerly presented by Her Majesty's Government to the Library, the latter was sent in return for certain MS. documents presented by the Library Company to the Rolls Office where they properly belonged.

—Michel Chasles, the eminent French geometrician, who has just died at the age of 88, left a large mass of important manuscripts. He had been studying closely and almost in secret, ever since his fame received such a blow from his deception by the forger of autographs, Vrain Lucas, in 1867. Lucas concocted and sold to Mr. Chasles no fewer than 27,000 documents, of which not more than 100 were genuine, and for which he received \$28,000. There were in this wonderful collection letters by Julius Cæsar and other Roman Emperors, the Virgin and Apostles, and especially by Pascal Galileo and Newton, which latter, if genuine, would have proved Sir Isaac to be a rank plagiarist. M. Chasles was so convinced of the genuineness of these papers that he made a two years' campaign against Newton's fame before the Institute, but finally he was convinced of the imposition. His good faith, of course, was never doubted. Lucas, by the way, was sent to jail a few weeks ago for loitering in contravention of the terms of his ticket-of-leave. His excuse was that he had some autographs to dispose of. May he not find an American "collector," when his new sentence has expired!

—At the *Théâtre de la Monnaie* in Brussels, the play *Quentin Durward* has been revived and very successfully performed. The success of the piece is attributed largely to the recent revival of interest in the romances of Scott.

M. Durand-Brager in his book "*Quatre mois de l'expédition de Garibaldi en Sicile et en Italie*," gives a whimsical anecdote about Alexandre Dumas, who, together with several other Frenchmen of note, joined the "thousand" that followed Garibaldi into Sicily. The Sicilian people everywhere cried *Viva Dumas!* quite as often as they did *Viva Garibaldi!*, as they pronounced it. One day, at Palermo, Durand-Brager overheard the following bit of dialogue between a number of *gens du peuple* of the city, who were astonished at these mingled acclamations of *Viva Garibaldi!* *Viva l'Italia!* *Viva la libertà!* *Viva Dumas!*

"Who is this Dumas?"

"Dumas?"

"Yes, Dumas. They are crying *Viva Dumas!* Do you hear?"

"Yes, I hear, but I do not understand."

"*Eh bien*, Dumas, he is the father of the King of Naples."

"Impossible!"

"Not at all. He is a Circassian prince, very rich, who is come to put his vessel and his subjects at the disposition of Sicily."

"Really?"

"It's as I tell you."

"Ha, if it is so: *Viva Dumas!* *Viva Dumas!* *Viva Dumas!*"

—Emile de Girardin, in his letter to the electors, gives his reasons for retiring from political life: "In an assembly which will not go to the bottom of any question, which likes better to disperse religious congregations than to vote the separation of Church and state, which prefers to maintain the unjustifiable law of separation of property and of dwelling in the case of dissatisfied married persons, rather than to reestablish divorce; which floats constantly between these two opposite poles, the pole of authority, and the pole of liberty—in such an Assembly I have no rôle. Moreover, I should have presented to you my letter of retirement of the 16th of December, 1877, if I had not been deterred by those among you who were informed of the resolution which I was disposed to take. They insisted that I should reserve my declaration until the renewal of the Chamber at the time fixed by the constitution for the expiration of its powers. I acceded to the request out of respect for them, and at the expense of my health, the warning symptoms of which I can no longer disregard."

Oppenheim, the Cologne banker, whose death is just reported from Europe, was—or more probably, was *not*, for we are suspicious of stories that are preternaturally pat or neat—the gentleman who wrote on a hotel register, where one of the Rothschilds had inscribed himself, "R., de Paris," as if every one should know who "R., de Paris," was—"O., de Cologne."

So great a hit did the London papers make with their Christmas numbers, that some of our American journals might be encouraged to get out mammoth illustrated supplements next December. We have better engravers here than they have in London, and better printers in color. The *Graphic* and *Illustrated News* were unable to fill their orders in England or here, and the shilling issues sold freely in America for \$2 on the eve of Christmas. The proprietors of the *Graphic*, in reply to correspondents who had asked why the Christmas number of that paper could not be reprinted, explained their difficulty as follows:—"Each copy of the print of 'Cherry Ripe' has to be printed fourteen times; the colored sheet of eight pictures, eight times; the tinted sheet of eight pages of pictures, three times; the wrapper, or cover, twice; and the reading, or type side of the paper, once—thus making a grand total of 11,800,000 impressions at the printing press, each impression to be carefully inspected to prevent the issue of bad copies."

THE STAGE.

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN: I.

IT is more than a hundred years since the "Rivals" and the "School for Scandal" were originally produced; and yet after a lapse of a century they are seen on our stage to-day as often as any two plays by any other English dramatist—not excepting even Shakespeare. It may be doubted whether even "Hamlet" is acted more frequently than the "School for Scandal." Throughout the length and breadth of this land Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Drew are now acting in the "Rivals;" and in London but a few weeks ago it was revived by another American, Mr. J. S. Clarke. And at Wal-lack's Theatre in New York, preparations are making for a reproduction of the "School for Scandal." A consideration of the standing of a writer whom custom does not stale, is always in order; just now, when two of Sheridan's works are prominent, occasion serves to discuss his dominant quality.

"Most men," says St. Beuve, "have not read those whom they judge; they have a ready-made opinion got by word of mouth, one scarcely knows how." No one has suffered more from these off-hand judgments than Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Although, (to borrow the phrase of an American critic in regard to Poe), although an enthusiastic admiration for Sheridan's works may be a mark of immaturity of reflection, yet one who can always take them up with the certainty of enjoyment is sorely tempted at times to protest against what seems to be the accepted decision on the question of Sheridan's merits and demerits. A ready-made opinion, as St. Beuve calls it, of a man who found so many and so various means of expressing himself, an opinion got by word of mouth, one hardly knows how, can scarcely be other than unjust. The case against Sheridan, as a man of letters, may be briefly stated. It is substantially, that he stole the characters and the plots of his plays, that he pilfered the points of his speeches and that he prepared his jokes in advance, appropriating to his own use any jest he found ready to his hand. The counsel for the prosecution got access to the *Saturday Review* a half-dozen years ago, and declared with forensic emphasis that Sheridan was "a plodding and heavy Beaumarchais, with all the tricks, but without the genuine brightness and originality of the Frenchman." When one reads a solemn statement like this, the question forms itself of its own accord:—Was he really plodding and heavy and without brightness? Had he no originality, or nothing of his own? Was he a wit, or had he none? To a question put thus bluntly the answer is easy. Sheridan was a wit; he was essentially a wit; and he was but little else. As far as

mere wit could carry him, Sheridan went, and but little further. He had wit raised to the zenith, and he could bend it to his bidding. In early youth poetry of the Pope period was in fashion; Sheridan set his wits to work and brought forth Popean verse to the full as good as the best made in his time. A little later he saw that through the stage-door lay the shortest way to fame and fortune; and he wrote plays brim-full of a wit which even now, after the lapse of a century and more, is well nigh as fresh as when it was first penned. In after years when he went to Parliament and needs must be an orator, again his wit was equal to the task, and he made orations which the great speakers, in that time of great speakers, declared to be unsurpassed. Had any other call been made on his wits, they would have done their best, and their best would have been good indeed. Whatever he did, poem, or play, or speech, it was but the chameleon expression of his wit. If in intellectual quality any of it was thin, in quantity it was full beyond all cavil. No one ever more truly—to use the phrase with no invidious intent—no one ever more truly lived on his wits than Sheridan, not even the arch wit, M. de Voltaire, or the Caron de Beaumarchais to whom the stolid *Saturday Reviewer* deemed him inferior.

Sheridan's wit was both written and spoken: what he himself put down in black and white in his comedies, remains to bear witness for itself; but as to what he spoke, we have only hearsay evidence. The jokes that he cracked in casual conversation, and the keen thrusts he made in debate are nowhere set down with precision; like the paleontologist, we must reconstruct as best we may, from the imperfect records which remain; this figure is inapt if it suggest at all that Sheridan's was a fossil wit. Nothing could be less exact; it was instinct with life when it came into being, and after the lapse of a century it has full vitality. His good things are long-lived, but some of the best of them are so worn by repetition in writing and speaking during the hundred years they have led a hand-to-mouth existence, that they retain but little likeness to their former selves. Stray stories with Sheridan's name tagged to them, are quoted until they are become as threadbare as the choice tales of the amusing collection to which Mr. Joseph Miller lent his name. There are many jokes put into the mouth of a renowned wit that never came out of it; and it is a first duty to render unto Sheridan the good things which are Sheridan's—no more and no less.

To the quick wit and good humor of Sheridan's conversation we have the testimony of well-nigh all who met him. An easy nature, an unfailing readiness, and an innocent delight in the exercise of his powers, made him a most enjoyable companion, and therefore to be bidden to every conviviality. It is true that Byron tells us that "Sheridan's humor, or rather wit, was always saturnine and sometimes savage. He never laughed, at least that I saw, and I watched him." But Byron only saw him in his soured and tormented age. In his youth, and even in early manhood, he was lively and full of fun, abundant in boyish pranks and practical jokes. With Tickell, who had married Mrs. Sheridan's sister, he was ever ready for a fantastic freak, only too often of the practical sort. One Saturday night he volunteered to write a sermon to be preached by a reverend friend visiting him, and it was only months after the clergyman had delivered the admirable discourse, on the Abuse of Riches, which Sheridan had spent the evening in writing, that he discovered it to be a covert attack on a local magnate generally accused of ill-treating the poor. In later life, in his sad decadence, after unchecked conviviality had done its work, coming one night very late out of a tavern, he was so overtaken with liquor as to need the aid of passers, who asked his name and abode, and to whom he gravely made answer—"Gentlemen, I am not often in this way; my name is Wilberforce." This is a reckless jest, at which even M. Taine, nowhere disposed to be over amiable to Sheridan, smiles perforce. A man capable of practical jokes like these, even in his saddest age, is as far removed as may be from moroseness. Sydney Smith, like Byron, knew Sheridan only when age had begun to wither him; and his opinion lies directly across Byron's. "The charm of Sheridan's speaking," says he, "was his multifariousness of style." Now, a man savage, saturnine, or morose can hardly have a multifariousness of style in speaking; and one is at a loss to account for Byron's assertion. Sydney Smith has been cited, because, like Byron, he met Sheridan only when the author of the "School for Scandal" was old and worn and wearied. In his bright and brilliant youth, after he had suddenly from nothing sprung to the front, and the ball lay at his feet, he was everywhere hailed as a wit of the first water. Lord John Townshend made a dinner-party for Fox to meet Sheridan; and he records: "The first interview between them I shall never forget. Fox told me, after breaking up from dinner, that he had always thought Hare, after my uncle Charles Townshend, the wittiest man he ever met with, but that Sheridan surpassed them both infinitely." And this, let it be noted, was after the host had specially raised Fox's expectations by dwelling at length on Sheridan's extraordinary powers.

Unless Sheridan's manner when Byron was present was unusual, or unless he had changed unaccountably with the thickening years, Sydney Smith's opinion is more to be relied on than the poet's. And Sydney Smith, it is to be remembered, is one who had wit enough of his own to appreciate Sheridan's. There is indeed one quality in which the dramatist and the Dean were alike. Lord Dudley said to the latter,—"You have been laughing at me constantly, Sydney, for the last seven years, and yet in all that time, you never said a single thing to me that I wished unsaid." In like manner, Sheridan was ever girding at Michael Kelly—"Composer of Wines and Importer of Music"—and yet his cuts were kindly and left no scar, and nowhere is Sheridan treated with more honest affection than in Kelly's recollections. Sydney Smith's wit has been compared to "summer lightning, that never harmed the object illumined by its flash;" and to continue the parallel, in the verses Moore wrote just after Sheridan's death, he declared him one

"Whose humor, as gay as the fire-fly's light,
Played round every subject, and shone as it played;
Whose wit, in the combat as gentle as bright,
Ne'er carried a heart-stain away on its blade."

Even in political debate, however sharp or acrimonious, Sheridan seems ever to have been courteous to his adversary; and although every shot hit its mark with fatal effect, there was no mangling of the corpse; he never made use of explosive bullets. However keen his thrust and his enjoyment of it, there was nothing vindictive or malignant to be detected. Even when his great rival, Burke, moved partly, it may be, by jealousy, but mainly, no doubt, by growing political distrust, broke with his friends and crossed over to the ministerial benches, with the cry, "I quit the camp,"—Sheridan did not hasten to seize the occasion for scoriating invective; he only hoped that as the Honorable Gentleman had quitted the camp as a deserter, he would never attempt to return as a spy.

And when Pitt chose to taunt him with his theatrical triumphs, he retorted with a stroke sharp and swift, but in no way passing the limits of friendly debate. The good-humored point of Sheridan's parry is evident even from the imperfect parliamentary reports of those days. Mr. Pitt said that no man admired more than he did "the abilities of that Right Honorable Gentleman, the elegant sallies of his thought, the gay effusions of his fancy, his dramatic turns and his epigrammatic point; and if they were reserved for the proper stage, they would, no doubt, receive what the Honorable Gentleman's abilities always did receive, the plaudits of the audience. * * * But this was not the proper scene for the display of these elegancies." Sheridan, rising to reply, calmly left the question of the taste of Pitt's personality to the House; and then went on. "But let me assure the Right Honorable Gentlemen, that I do now, and will, at any time he chooses to repeat this sort of allusion, meet it with the most sincere good-humor. Nay, I will say more—flattered and encouraged by the Right Honorable Gentleman's panegyric on my talents, if ever I again engage in the compositions he alludes to, I may be tempted to an act of presumption—to attempt an improvement on one of Ben Jonson's best characters, the character of the *Angry Boy*, in the 'Alchemist.' " Recondite as this allusion seems now, it was not so then, for Garrick's performance of *Abel Drugger* was one of his best, and the play kept the stage till the beginning of this century.

To revert for a moment to the comparison of Sydney Smith to Sheridan, a comparison which one cannot but feel is unkind to the Dean, whose wit was lacking in the depth and breadth and multifariousness for which he praised the dramatist; indeed, it may be doubted whether Sydney Smith's most characteristic quality was wit at all, and whether it was not rather a sort of "American humor," springing from a quick and keen sense of the incongruous,—had Mr. Mark Twain been a clergyman of the Church of England, everybody would acknowledge the striking likeness of his literary methods and Smith's. There is one aspect of the Dean's "good things" which likens them to Sheridan's. "Sydney Smith's wit," said a friend, "is always fresh, you find the dew still on it." This appearance of spontaneity was Sheridan's also; his wit was never stale; but at times the freshness was art and not nature; it sparkled like the diamond when it did not glisten with the dew; and its hard brilliancy was the result of long crystallization. And this brings us to a consideration of the preparation which Sheridan bestowed upon his wit. Since Moore published his biography, public opinion has followed his lead; and it is an accepted belief, echoed from one writer to another, that all Sheridan's jests were slowly incubated, and that, in short, he was plodding and dull, laboring heavily over every borrowed joke. No such idea obtained before the publication of Moore's book; and as Mrs. Norton, Sheridan's grand-daughter, justly said, all those whose lives Moore wrote fell at once in public estimation. The early MSS. of the "School for Scandal," which Moore had in his hands, showed how slowly that comedy had been rounded to its full completeness; and odd scraps of memoranda revealed to Moore and by him to the world, that Sheridan carried the same principle into minor matters, jotting down the germ of a jest which in time attained full growth and was then stored away in his memory for instant use whenever occasion might serve. Moore's wide reading and large acquaintance with the men of his time enabled him to point out many a passage in Sheridan's written works or spoken sayings, credit for the first invention of which was due to another.

Now, although Moore does not say it, and, indeed, on examination is seen to deny it, the inference to be drawn by a careless reader is that all Sheridan did was pilfered and prepared. And this is the ready-made opinion, got by word of mouth, one scarcely knows how, which most men have of the author of the "School for Scandal," the "Rivals," and the "Critic." It must be confessed that there is some slight foundation for the belief that Sheridan was a sort of baronial plunderer, despoiling every passer-by of whatever wit he might have concealed about his person. In fact, Sheridan had no great regard for literary *meum* and *teum*; as it has been neatly said, he was a sort of Catiline in wit, "covetous of another's wealth, and profuse of his own." Even in his dramatic works, amid all the display of his own coruscating fireworks, we can now and then detect a squib or two, which belongs to his neighbor. All his plays might furnish perhaps a dozen items for a bill of particulars. In his parliamentary career, there are perhaps half a dozen instances recorded of his having borrowed the suggestion of another to turn it to instant use on the floor of the House. In his essay on "Quotation and Originality," Emerson cites the remark of one of Hallam's friends, who had said, "I don't know how it is, a thing that falls flat from me seems quite an excellent joke when given second-hand by Sheridan." And Emerson prefaces the anecdote with these words—which, to my mind, contain the reason why Sheridan condescended to "lift" the jest of another: "In hours of high mental activity we sometimes do the book too much honor, reading out of it better things than the author wrote,—reading, as we say, between the lines. You have had the like experience in conversation; the wit was in what you heard, not in what the speaker said. Our best thought came from others. We heard in their words a deeper sense than the speakers put into them, and could express ourselves in other people's phrases to finer purpose than they knew."

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, January 5, 1881.

WITH the old year closed, it may not be uninteresting to take a general retrospect of its events and developments, so far as they relate to the financial circles of the country. The year 1879 was a remarkable one in the wide prevalence and the progress of prosperity revived after the disaster and depression ensuing from the 1873 panic; but the past year has been even more memorable. It witnessed a business prosperity never before known in our annals; a wonderful mining and railroad development; a large immigration of tillers of the soil who did not stay in the over-crowded East, but moved to the great promising West; and an activity in speculations in securities never before equalled. There were bountiful crops at home, and a failure, more or less extended, in Europe, which demanded a heavy supply from America. Not content with taking our grains and merchandise, the "old country" during 1880 absorbed enormous quantities of our securities of every description. At home, the abundance of capital seeking investment—an amount expanded by the conversion of gold from the state of merchandise to that of money, and the displacement of over \$100,000,000 by Governmental redemption of the national debt—brought about an enormous domestic absorption of securities. The success of the Government's 4% refunding operations led to sanguine hopes that the maturing debt of 1881 could be refunded at even a lower rate of interest, and when, in the early part of the year, bankers and financial men doubted the success of a new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan, toward the close their doubts were only applied to the proposed 3 per cent's. refunding debt. In fact, it has been the wonderful plenty of money, and the apparent prospect of a low rate of interest generally, which have driven investors into railroad stocks and mortgages, with the consequent advance in prices from the reduction of the offering supply.

There were immense speculations in nearly every kind of products in 1880, but practically all of them ended with loss to the manipulators. "Corners" were made in grain, cotton, pork, iron, etc., but they were broken, and the markets for these products became active and healthily strong. Cotton closed in 1880 at about 12 11-16 cents per pound, against $12\frac{1}{2}$ in 1879, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ in 1878; wheat, at \$1.17 per bushel, against \$1.48 in 1879, and $96\frac{1}{2}$ cents in 1878; pork, at \$14 per barrel, against \$12.25 in 1879, and \$7 in 1878; and iron, at \$25 per ton, against \$33 in 1879, and \$17 in 1878. The activity of the country's grain and flour improvement is indicated by the receipts at, and exports from, the port of New York, the total receipts being in 1880, 171,776,749 bushels, against 164,014,479 bushels in 1879, and 102,233,498 bushels in 1877. The total exports were 135,204,800 bushels in 1880, against 124,350,932 bushels in 1879, and 62,677,836 bushels in 1877. At the four principal Atlantic ports, the receipts in the past year were 263,206,144 bushels, and the exports 200,289,981 bushels, against receipts of 252,558,833 bushels in 1879, and exports of 194,984,374 bushels.

At the Stock Exchange the transactions during the year were generally unexampled. The total sales of stocks were 97,200,040 shares, against 74,166,652 shares in 1879, an increase of 32,855,118 shares. Of railroad bonds there were dealings to the amount of \$569,910,200 against \$412,309,400 in 1879, an increase of \$157,600,800. The speculations in Government bonds, however, were smaller, because of the removal of the stimulus to activity which was supplied in 1879 by the extensive refunding operations of the Government. The total sales aggregated \$58,459,600, against \$112,571,850 in 1879, a decrease of \$54,112,250. There also was a falling off in the trading in State securities, principally due to the distrust engendered by the apparent repudiating tendencies of many of the Southern States, the transactions having been \$15,497,400 against \$22,643,150, a decrease of \$7,145,750. In city bank stocks the sales were 15,354 shares against 15,606 shares in 1879.

The stock speculations opened with a gradually advancing movement, the inheritance of the recovery from the break of November, 1879. In April, however, the market became unsettled and declining, but the downward movement culminated in the severe breaks of the latter part of May. From that time there was a gradual improvement in prices, which extended to the late rampant "bull" speculation, which resulted from the enormous outside buying from home and foreign trading after the result of the October and the November elections became known. The advance in quotations from the final figures of 1879 was tremendous, the active stocks generally showing gains of 20 to 40 per cent. From the low prices of last May the advance to the close was about 30 to 50 per cent. In railroad bonds proportionately handsome improvements are shown in prices. In Government bonds the newer issues were enhanced in market value by the growing prospect of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 per cent. being the future Government rate of interest. Comparing the closing prices on Dec. 31, 1880, with those of Dec. 31, 1879, the 4 per cents show gains of $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents of $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The money market was stringent in 1880 up to April, from which time the rate on call loans eased off to 2@4 per cent. The last two months of the ended year, however, witnessed a restoration of the quotation to 6 per cent., and manipulation also enforced from borrowers commissions ranging from 1-64 to $\frac{1}{4}$ per diem in addition.

The principal financial events of the year may be summarized as follows: The Gould-Wabash railroad system secured an independent line to Chicago, and acquired absolute or nearly absolute control of the Missouri Pacific, the Missouri Kansas & Texas and the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroads; the Louisville & Nashville system was nearly trebled by purchases, leases or acquisitions in other ways, of various lines; the telegraph system of the country was practically revolutionized by the opening and rapid extension of the lines of the American Union Telegraph Company; large loans were successfully placed by the Southern Pacific and other railroad companies, and companies were organized, under concessions from the Mexican Government, to build railroads in Mexico. In fact, the general railroad development of the United States during the year was gigantic. The unparalleled prosperity of the existing rail-

roads resulted in many companies resuming or beginning the payment of dividends, in other companies increasing their capital stock and keeping the old rate of dividend unchanged, and in almost every company permanently benefitting its property by liberal expenditures.

The activity of the mining industry of the country was also great in 1880. The speculative movement contemporary with the actual investment of capital in the opening and development of mines was, however, disappointing to many purchasers of mining stocks, and the mining markets in this city were generally declining ones from about June. Total investments at the two mining boards for the year were 28,733,075 share.

The new year opens with bright prospects for the continued substantial prosperity of the country. It is hard to see how any disaster can be produced, the only danger apparent at the moment being the possibility of over-speculation. In the stock market the recent upward movement, however, has been checked, with the opening year, from the inevitable realizing of profits. The closing days of 1880 witnessed no change in the course of prices, but, as was noted in our review last week, the great "bull" movement gave signs of a coming reaction. The buying impulse culminated, and heavy sales were made, by "outsiders" and "insiders," of stocks which had been purchased one, two and three months previous. The tide of American securities to Europe halted, and heavy shipments back to this country from abroad were made. On Monday, the first business day of the new year, a break of 4 to 5 per cent. was precipitated by large offerings of holders who had hoped to find a good market on the previously expected January "boom." The decline has since been somewhat recovered, but the course of the speculation has been unfavorable to the hope for an immediate stability in prices. In the face of the enormous appreciation in the market value of the dividend-paying stocks since last May, the reaction on Monday appears trifling. That venture was brought about by the extent of the advance. Stocks had reached such an altitude that even unloading from the strong boxes of those investors who had purchased a month or more ago was tempted. One, two, and even three years' dividends were assured beforehand by the difference between the prices at which the purchases had been made, and the ruling quotations. The conditions are not favorable to anything like a panic, but stocks still are eagerly waiting for a market, and fresh, powerful purchasing does not seem to be likely until a lower basis of values has been reached. As an indication of the changed temper, too, of the larger operations, it may be mentioned that from the office of a prominent Wall street operator the draft of a bill on the principle of the former "Granger" legislation has been sent to Wisconsin, to be introduced (with the appearance of originating on the spot) into the legislature of that State.

Railroad bonds have been well maintained in price, but the transactions latterly have been growing duller. Government bonds have been moderately active, and are about unchanged. In State bonds little of interest was done.

The Philadelphia market sympathized with the fluctuations in the New York market, the prominent stocks being Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Reading, the Northern Pacific, North Pennsylvania and Lehigh Canal and Navigation; while during the latter part of the year unusual attention was given to Philadelphia and Erie, Northern Central, and Pittsburg, Titusville and Buffalo stocks. Pennsylvania sold as high as 55 in April, fell to 48 in May, and then advanced to over 67. Philadelphia and Erie sold at $19\frac{3}{4}$ and from that down to $10\frac{7}{8}$ in May, from which it rallied to 22. The course of the general market is thus indicated, but Reading was an exception to the rule, the company passing into the hands of the Court in May, from which its friends have not yet been able to redeem it; after selling at the opening of the year at $36\frac{1}{2}$, it fell in July to $6\frac{1}{2}$; partly as the result of speculation and partly on account of a better feeling towards the company it recovered to $27\frac{1}{4}$, with a later decline to 25. Under the stimulating influences of favorable reports from Mr. Gowen, who is still in London, the stock rose to-day to $28\frac{3}{4}$, and renewed life during the past day or two has been infused into the whole market, although prices have suffered a decline.

Comparing the condition of the Associated banks of New York at the close of the past year, as indicated by the Clearing House statement, with their condition at the beginning of the year (January 3), we find that their loans are increased \$21,050,500, now amounting to nearly three hundred million dollars, and their deposits are \$30,379,800 greater. The specie at present on hand is a little less than ten millions greater than it was a year ago, while the amount of legal tenders is about the same. The increase in the total reserve is therefore about the amount of the increase in specie, the banks now holding specie and legal tenders equal to \$70,844,500, but the increase in deposits brings the surplus reserve above the sum required under the 25% rule down to \$2,727,775, which is nearly \$2,500,000 greater than it was at the beginning of the year. The reserve is now just 26% of the deposits. The course of the banks during the past few weeks is much more surprising. By the early part of November the loans were run up to \$324,000,000, since which time they have been gradually contracted until they amounted to less than \$292,500,000 for the week ending Christmas day, one of the effects of which was felt in a stringent money market. But when a conservative course on the part of the banks was as important as at any time during the year, and when money was beginning to show signs of being more plentiful, they suddenly expanded their loans \$5,338,800 during the last week of 1880. There seems to be a growing disposition of late on the part of the banks to ignore laws made to govern them at a time that most of their reserves consisted of legal tenders, but which are of less importance at present, and it is evident that for the sake of maintaining the dignity of the law it should be modified; this fact furnishes no excuse, however, for some of the leading banks to enter into a conspiracy with certain stock speculators to produce an artificial demand for money. The clearances of the associated banks of New York for the year 1880 amounted to \$38,614,448,223, against \$29,235,646,829 for the preceding year, an increase of \$9,377,801,394, while the balances were \$1,559,227,597 in 1880, against \$1,449,874,993 in 1879.

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